Hafa Adai!

Rota lass graduates HS at the top of class; is accepted to UT Austin. PAGE 5
Star Marianas seeks info about new interisland airline. PAGE 6

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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REYES: 1% OPA FEE MAKES CPA VIOLATE FEDERAL GRANT ASSURANCES

Violation imperils NMI airports

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reyes

Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Pete P. Reyes said Thursday that the 1% Office of the Public Auditor fee issue must be resolved immediately as this makes CPA violate federal grant assurances that may lead to a sanction and possibility of closure of CPA's airports.

Speaking on behalf of the CPA during the House of Representatives' session on Rota, Reyes pushed for the passage of House Bill 22-102 to exempt public corporations and autonomous agencies from paying the 1% OPA fee.

He said the purpose of the

See REYES on Page 4

IN MEMORIAM
Family members pray over the graves of their fallen loved ones after the Memorial Day service yesterday morning at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery. LEIGH GASES

Story on Page 2

Kilili: 'Touchback' is tough for some employers, but necessary

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that it's necessary for CNMI employers to obey the requirements of the "touchback" provision of the foreign worker program because U.S. Citizenship and

See KILILI on Page 4

Asiana marks 30 years in the CNMI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Asiana Airlines, the CNMI's longest operating international airline, celebrated last Saturday its 30th year in the CNMI, with government officials and stakeholders converging at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to show their appreciation to Asiana and its commitment to the Marianas.

See ASIANA on Page 4

Asiana Airlines, the CNMI's longest operating international airline, celebrated last Saturday its 30th year in the CNMI, with a gathering at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

ASIA
The wreckage of a plane carrying 22 people that disappeared in Nepal's mountains was found.

PAGE 13

OVERDRIVE
Are Americans ready for electric vehicles? With the 2022 Ford F-150 Lightning, it's clear they are.

PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Tom Cruise just got his first $100 million opening weekend with "Top Gun: Maverick."

PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

NMI MARKS MEMORIAL DAY AT VETERANS CEMETERY

'A sacred duty to ensure the memory of fallen heroes are not lost'

Gov. Ralph Torres is joined by veterans and distinguished guests after the laying of the wreath during the Memorial Day service yesterday morning at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. LEIGH GASES

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Officials, veterans, families, and dignitaries converged at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi yesterday for the Memorial Day ceremony that Stanley Iakopo of the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs described as "our sacred duty to ensure that the names of our fallen heroes and their memories are not lost."

Yesterday's ceremony, meant to honor U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces, was the first time the Veterans Cemetery was filled with people in the last two years, since the starts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event's keynote speaker, Lt. Col. Albert S. Flores Jr. of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, noted that there are 102 military veterans whose final resting place is at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi, "some of whom died during active service. Some were young, some were old, but all were patriots," he said.

As he read through the names of veterans resting in Marpi, Flores said he was

See DUTY on Next Page

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on June 7, 2022, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Saipan World Resort – Sunflower Room.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of June 7, 2022
IV. Review & Adoption of Special Meeting Minutes of May 31, 2022
V. Reports
  a. Chairman
  b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  d. Executive Director
VI. New Business
  a. Movie Night
  b. DNP Quality Assurance Retreat
  c. State Plan Public Hearing Schedule
VII. Miscellaneous
VIII. Next Meeting
IX. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes of oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Robert Mendiola
Chairperson

This ad is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award total $274,744 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Kilili vows to work harder for the veterans who are alive

From left, Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), and Gov. Ralph Torres pause for a moment of prayer after laying down a wreath at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery during the Memorial Day service.

LAIGH GASES

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi is a good place to remind himself that, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Veterans Affairs Committee, he needs to work harder for the veterans who are alive.

In an interview shortly after the Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery, Sablan, who was among those government officials who joined the event, said Memorial Day is a time of the year when people get together, pay their respects, and memorialize the sacrifices of the nation's veterans.

Toward that promise to do more for the CNMI's veterans, Sablan and the Veterans Affairs Committee recently successfully made the CNMI eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. As a result, Marianas families caring for veterans with disabilities have begun to apply for the assistance program.

Sablan said that U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs deputy secretary Donald Remy told him last week that the department is already receiving applications.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers is for eligible veterans who have incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, or on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Under the program, caregivers may receive a monthly stipend, health insurance, and reimbursement for travel costs, as well as training in how to help their family's disabled veteran.

Sablan last week disclosed that Remy committed to making sure the VA has the necessary administrative staff to start up the Marianas program and reduce processing times.

DUTY

From Page 2

drawn "to those from my own generation, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan," particularly Army SSG W ilgene T. Lieto and Army SPC Derence W. Jack, who were both killed on Oct. 31, 2005 when an IED detonated beneath their vehicle while they were on patrol in Balad, Iraq.

"When SSG Lieto and SPC Jack were killed, I also was in Iraq, not far away from where their IED strike occurred. I note this only because I'm familiar with how difficult their mission was. It takes a special type of person to do the job that veterans like SSG Lieto and SPC Jack were asked to do. It takes people willing to run toward the sounds of danger…" said Flores.

Iakopo, who is executive officer of the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, said that Memorial Day for most is a day off of work.

"It's the start of summer. It's a time for celebration. …But for anybody who's lost a fallen hero, it's one of the worst days of the year. It is inconceivable for anyone to understand who has not had his or her own heart pierced with such sadness. Which is why Memorial Day is not a Happy Memorial Day. It is our sacred duty to ensure that the names of our fallen heroes and their memories are not lost… And events held on sacred ground like this will ensure we always, always remember them… To those of you who mourn the loss of a loved one today, my heart goes out to you. This day is about you, and the fallen heroes that you love."

Brad Ruszala, commander of the local division of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, led the solemn Memorial Tribute roll call of the fallen. After the event, Ruszala said it was the first "fully attended Memorial Day service since the pandemic broke out, so it was great to see everyone out here…"

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was later joined by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), as well as veterans, service members, guests, in the laying of wreaths.

Torres welcomed everyone to the ceremony and extended "a warm welcome to the military families, our dignitaries, and our community on this solemn day of remembrance. We are gathered here on this sacred ground to honor the lives and the deeds of some of our country's and our island's greatest heroes, the men and women who laid down their lives for our freedom, and who contributed so much to the greater good for us here. We also join the families to pay tribute to their service and remember their sacrifices. To every family here today, our islands thank you, and keep you in our prayers, and we will never forget our heroes."

VFW members, the 22nd Legislature, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, judicial dignitaries, and families of fallen veterans also attended the ceremony.

The Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band led the pre-ceremonial music, the playing of the U.S. and CNMI anthems and played Taps after the 21-gun salute done by the Department of Public Safety firing detail.

The posting and retiring of colors was done by the JROTC Saipan Southern High School, Manta Ray Battalion Color Guard.

Concluding the ceremony, four F/A-18 Hornets assigned to the Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 did a flyover of the cemetery at 10:45am, after flying over Guam Veterans Cemetery.

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IPI found in default of stay agreement

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has found Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in default of the stay agreement between the casino investor and seven former workers who had sued the company for alleged labor violations.

According to an order issued over the weekend by District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona, the court found that IPI failed to comply with its obligation under the stay agreement to make payment by May 1 or file notice, and that it failed to cure the default within 10 days.

"Accordingly, the court finds IPI to be in default of the stay agreement," she stated.

Because of this, Manglona directed American Contractors Indemnity Company, or ACIC, to release to plaintiffs the $3 million secured by the supersedeas bond.

However, as to the plaintiffs' request that the stay on the limited receivership for IPI's casino gaming equipment be lifted, the court found that further briefing is necessary on the issue.

The court ordered IPI to file its brief in opposition to the lifting of the stay on the limited receivership no later than June 2, while plaintiffs were given until June 7, to file their response.

Manglona then set a hearing on the plaintiffs' request to lift the stay on the limited receivership for June 9.

The receivership remains on hold until June 15.

According to court documents, IPI did not timely increase the supersedes bond on May 1.

Plaintiffs sent a default notice to IPI the next day but IPI failed to make payment within the 10-day cure period. IPI also never contacted plaintiffs during that period.

As provided in the stay agreement, plaintiffs filed a motion requesting the court to declare that IPI is in default and order the remedies provided in the stay agreement.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the court issued a judgment in this matter in favor of the workers in the amount of $5,430,595.58.

IPI appealed the judgment to the Ninth Circuit, but initially did not post a bond or any security.

In response, the plaintiffs commenced efforts to enforce their judgment, including obtaining a writ of execution on IPI's personal property which was executed by the U.S. Marshals on July 20, 2021.

The workers and IPI then executed an agreement to stay enforcement that includes multiple appendices, with an effective date of Feb. 3, 2022, which shall stay enforcement of their default judgement in exchange for IPI securing a supersedeas bond in the amount of $6 million on or before June 30, 2022.

IPI fulfilled its initial obligations under the stay agreement by securing a supersedeas bond in the amount of $1 million on Feb. 11, 2022, and reimbursing certain expenses and a portion of the legal fees incurred by plaintiffs in seeking to enforce their judgment prior to executing the stay agreement.

On Feb. 18, 2022, the parties filed a stipulation finding that the stay agreement in its entirely, including all appendices, provides plaintiffs with adequate security.

ASIANA

From Page 1

Asiana Airlines hosted its anniversary celebration last Saturday at the airport with members for the CNMI Legislature, Marianas Visitors Authority, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and other CNMI stakeholders.

According to Intak Hwang, general manager for Asiana Airlines Saipan Office, the 30 years that the airline has been flying to the CNMI has had many challenges—challenges that nearly resulted in Asiana completely shutting down its Saipan office a few times—but, with the support of the CNMI community as a whole, they have continued their services for three decades and aims to expand those services.

"We are the only full-service carrier operating on Saipan right now. And we've been servicing for 30 years. I really appreciate the support from the community. I really feel great that we've been providing our services for 30 years. We never stopped servicing until the [COVID-19] pandemic. I believe we stopped flying for about one year and three months. We had to stop due to the pandemic, but with the support of the local government, MVA, and CPA, we were able to resume the flight back to normal operations, which is now we're upgrading twice a week. And we're planning to add more flights later," he said.

In a brief statement from CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, she said she it was a tremendous moment to witness Asiana celebrate its 30th year of servicing the CNMI, given all the struggles they've faced, from economic to typhoons and, recently, COVID-19.

"Being able to sit here and to witness Asiana making it through 30 years of many different hardships, and for all of us to be here to witness this moment, it's tremendous. Congratulations to them. It's always been CPA's goal throughout this pandemic to find a way for us to see the pandemic through together. And unlike any other jurisdiction, you know, we shared our CARES Act funding, whatever we got from the federal government, we passed the savings to our partners and I hope that that has contributed to them being able to make it this far as well. So we're really excited about them turning 30 And we look to 30 more years," she said.

Former MVA board member Jerry Tan shared that Asiana has changed the landscape for the Korean market in the CNMI, stating that it was thanks to Asiana's commitment and many investments that the Korean market has flourished and became one of the CNMI's largest tourism market to date.

"It was Asiana about 15 years ago that actually changed the whole landscape of the Korean provider. At one time, we were getting about 60,000 tourists a year. Now we're getting 500% more or well over 300,000 and it has become our leading market before the pandemic. Asiana also has been servicing us during a pandemic, whether it is to evacuate Korean nationals or to bring in COVID-related supplies. Asiana has been here with us. So I just want to recognize and thank Asiana," he said.

Acting MVA board chair Gloria Cavanaugh echoed Tan and added that Asiana has, and will always be, considered part of the CNMI family.

KILILI

From Page 1

Immigration Services had already modified its policy on implementing it in 2020.

"This was the second time where USCIS actually did a little bit of an adjustment, an administrative remedy," said Sablan in an interview, adding that there should be no misunderstanding anymore on the employers' part about the provision.

He said implementing the touchback provision is going to be a tough one, but if employers don't start doing this, it could be a problem.

"There needs to be planning not just within companies. …It's going to be difficult but necessary," the delegate said.

Sablan participated in a meeting between USCIS and the Society for Human Resources Management CNMI Chapter last week, in which the USCIS had a presentation on CW-1 touchback provision.

Touchback refers to a brief period when certain foreign workers are required to exit the CNMI and return to their home country. Some workers will be affected by the provision starting next year.

Sablan said he can no longer help employers make accommodations because USCIS had already made administrative remedies.

"Some people want me to just get rid of the whole law. It's not [going to] happen. Not that I don't want to and even if I did, it's not going to happen. We are not going to repeal that," he said.

Last August 2020, USCIS modified its policy on implementing the touchback requirement, so that alien workers will only be required to leave the CNMI for at least 30 days after two renewals of their CNMI-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) visa clarification.

In modifying its policy, USCIS then only considers CW-1 petitions approved on or after June 18, 2020, when they apply the touchback.

CW-1 petitions approved on or after June 18, 2020, will be eligible for two consecutive renewal periods before having to go back to their home country.

USCIS made such change in response to stakeholder feedback and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Workforce Act required that, following the expiration of the second CW-1 renewal period, an alien may not again be eligible for a new CW-1 status until after the alien has remained outside of the United States for a continuous period of at least 30 days before the submission of a renewal petition on their behalf.

CW-1 long-term workers, as defined in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's interim final rule, are exempted from the department requirement.

REYES

From Page 1

bill is to amend the existing law by providing flexibility to autonomous agencies like CPA such that it is able to comply with both CNMI law and its federal grant assurances.

"The bill is fair. It provides OPA a path forward by allowing it to charge reasonable fees for services actually rendered. Should OPA one day provide service to CPA, CPA would gladly pay OPA the reasonable value of the service," Reyes said.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), who is the main author of the bill, stated in the legislation that the exemption provides financial relief to the autonomous agencies and public corporations that do not utilize the audit services of the OPA in the first place.

Villagomez said an additional concern for CPA is that the OPA fee, as a general charge imposed upon CPA annually, constitutes revenue diversion from CPA that would violate federal entitlement or discretionary grant conditions or jeopardize such grants for airport and seaport improvements.

Public Auditor Kina N. Peter has opposed the bill, saying the proposed legislation not only would exempt some agencies from paying 1% of their budget to CPA but would also forgive a $40 million debt owed the CNMI government.

Peter said this will also negatively affect the OPA's ability to function independently as required by law.

Reyes told the lawmakers Thursday that in November 2015, CPA wrote to the Office of the Attorney General regarding CPA's position and a proposal on its liability for fees due to the Public Auditor.

Reyes said the law requires CPA to pay either 1% of its total operation budget from sources other than legislative appropriations or an amount determined by another formula as agreed upon by OPA and the agency, whichever is greater.

He said in that 2015 letter to the OAG, CPA noted the inequity that law imposes on CPA. For example, he said, CPA not only pays for its own independent audit as required by its bond indenture but OPA uses independent audit to meet its statutory requirement.

He said one of those statutory requirements which can be found in the law requires that OPA transmit an annual report that includes a financial audit of each agency to the governor and to the presiding officers of each Houses.

"As you all likely know, OPA uses CPA's independent audit to meet that statutory requirement," Reyes said.

He said OPA later turns around and seeks payment from CPA.

He said on top of that, the payment of OPA's request often amount to twice what OPA pays each independent auditor. Despite that inquiry, Reyes said, CPA has sought to bridge the gap and offer to pay OPA .01% of its total operation budget to put this issue to bed.

The director said that, in January 2016, CPA received a response from the OAG, in which the AG indicated that the gap could not be bridged unless the Legislature enacts an equitable exemption to the auditing fee.

He said the AG noted that if CPA and OPA could reach a mutually acceptable payment, then the OAG would not object.

Reyes said that, in November 2017, CPA received a letter from OPA that stated that the amount is owed the CNMI general fund and not OPA.

He said OPA's letter also stated that it could not agree to CPA's offer of .01% of its total operation budget because it was prohibited by law to do so.

Reyes said that in 2020, CPA received a request to submit comments to a Senate bill, which was essentially a previous version of the current House Bill 22-102.

In those comments, CPA stated it has refrained from remitting the 1%, not only because the remittance would be inequitable, but also because it violates CPA's federal grant assurances. Reyes pointed out that this grant assurances are essential requirement placed on CPA by its federal grantors in exchange for federal funds.

He said the specific grant assurances that he is referring to prohibits CPA from paying more than the value of services received, and also mandates the use of the rest of airport revenue for general economic development activities.

Reyes said requiring CPA pay the 1% to OPA or the general fund would violate this assurances.

"And as I alluded to earlier, if CPA violates this grant assurances, then the people of the CNMI, and I repeat, the people of the CNMI will be faced with the very real possibility that their airports will be closed and unable to operate," he said, adding that that is why passage of the bill is critical.

The director said the Federal Aviation Administration has indicated that this issue needs to be resolved immediately. He said FAA provided a deadline of June 16, 2022 to resolve the matter.

"For that reason, I call upon this body to keep the airports' operable by passing this bill," Reyes said.

He said FAA's letter he was referring to is dated May 16, 2022, and was sent by Gordon Wong, who is the FAA airport district office manager overseeing the CNMI.

He said FAA's letter states that the 1% fee may be considered revenue diversion.

Reyes said FAA indicated that airport revenue must be used for operation maintenance and capital improvement of CPA airports.

He said revenue diversion could lead to placing CPA in non-compliance and leads to sanction.

Reyes said CPA may pay for its required service but the cost for service must be appropriately calculated and documented for costs only related to CPA.

Pride Month kickoff signals monthlong series of events

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Pride Marianas Youth, Pride Marianas, T-Project, volunteers and community partners are inviting the public tomorrow, Wednesday, June 1, to the kick off of Pride Month 2022, , with a proclamation signing at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe at 10am, signaling the start of a series of events for the whole month of June.

Right after the proclamation signing will be an "Isla Roadside Waving" across multiple locations: at the San Antonio Basketball Court from 1pm to 5pm, at the Atkins Kroll intersection in Oleai from 4pm to 5pm, the Kagman Mobil Station intersection from 1:30pm to 5:30pm, and at the Marina Heights Building I in Puerto Rico from 1:30pm 5:30pm.

"Everyone is welcome to wave from your offices! Let's make a rainbow across the islands for all our youth to see!" said the Pride Marianas Youth office.

On Tuesday evening, June 2, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, join the Pride Marianas and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council at the Safehouse in Garapan for an adult-only event for a discussion about the Chamorro and Carolinian words and phrases associated with the LGBTQIA+ experience in the Marianas. The featured speakers will be Chailang Palacios, Donald Mendiola, K'nilismer'fifi Tuhuweitae, Frankie Eliptico, Christine Tudela, and DJ Dice. It is a free event but space is limited.

On June 3, from 6pm to 10pm, head over to Marianas Creations in Garapan for "Pride First Friday in June," which is a monthly celebration of local art and artists.

At the Guma Sakman in Susupe, join 500 Sails and Pride Marianas on June 5, from 10am to 2pm, for "Lailai 4 Pride."

On June 8, 2022 at 4pm, there will be the "Love Yourself, Love Everyone" event at the Northern Marianas College Mango Terrace.

A "Read Out Loud" will be held on June 11 and June 18.

On Rota, there will be a "Color Run" on June 11.

On June 14, from 7:30pm to 9pm at the Chá cafe, join the "Queer Lit Book Club" in reading Chamorro author Julian Aguon's collection of poetry, prose, and orations, The Properties of Perpetual Light, and to discuss and share experiences. There is a limited number of copies free to anyone interested in attending, so e-mail pridemarianas@gmail.com or DM @pridemarianas670 on Instagram to grab your copy today.

The "Stride for Pride" and "Pride at the Park" will be held at the NMI Museum on June 28.

Coast Guard assists in patrolling Solomons Islands' EEZ

U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER JUNIPER
Crewmembers aboard the Coast Guard cutter Myrtle Hazard stand watch on the bridge while underway in Oceania.

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard assisted the Solomon Islands this week by patrolling their exclusive economic zone while maintenance was being conducted on the Royal Solomon Islands police vessel *Taro*.

The Coast Guard cutter *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139) crew helped to fill the operational presence needed by conducting maritime surveillance to deter illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the northern Solomon Islands.

"Through Operation Blue Pacific, the United States Coast Guard looks for opportunities to assist our regional partners with maritime governance and security," said Capt. Craig O'Brien, chief of response of Coast Guard District 14. "Working closely with the Forum Fisheries Agency and the government of Solomon Islands, it was a privilege for the United States Coast Guard to assist the Solomon Islands while their police vessel was down for maintenance."

This operation was made possible by coordination between the Coast Guard, the Solomon Islands' Commissioner of Police, assistant commissioner of Police, and the deputy commissioner for National Security and Operations.

Before diverting to the Solomon Islands, the *Myrtle Hazard* was already deployed on an expeditionary patrol spanning five different Pacific Island Countries and the high seas in support of Operation Blue Pacific.

Operation Blue Pacific is an overarching multi-mission Coast Guard endeavor promoting security, safety, sovereignty, and economic prosperity in Oceania while strengthening relationships between partners in the region with an emphasis on deterring IUU fishing.

IUU fishing has replaced piracy as the leading global maritime security threat and has the potential to jeopardize the efforts of PICs to conserve fish stocks, an important renewable resource in the region.

"Maintaining maritime governance in Oceania with our partners is essential in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific," said O'Brien. "It is through this collaborative effort and our ability to join forces that we are able to support regional economic prosperity and individual sovereignty."

With a population of approximately 40 million people covering an area of 12.2 million square nautical miles, the Coast Guard and its international partners regularly patrol Oceania to protect and support those who call it home. ***(USCG)***

U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER JUNIPER
A crewmember aboard the Coast Guard cutter Myrtle Hazard works while underway in Oceania.

Rota lass graduates HS at the top of class; is accepted to UT Austin

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Samantha Manglona, who was born on Saipan and raised on the island of Rota, has been accepted into the University of Texas at Austin where she will be working a bachelor's degree in Psychology this fall 2022.

Samantha Manglona, who was born on Saipan and raised on the island of Rota, has graduated in the top 2% of her class, ranking 11 out of 680 students at Pebble Hills High School in El Paso, Texas.

Manglona previously attended Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior High and Sinapalo Elementary School on her home island.

While at Pebble Hills High School, Manglona's school leadership included being secretary of HOSA Future Health Professionals, vice president of the Red Cross Club, and the team leader and advocate of the International Humanitarian Law Youth Action Campaign. Manglona has been accepted into the University of Texas at Austin's College of Liberal Arts where she will be working toward her B.S. in Psychology this fall 2022.

Manglona's message to all Rota students: "You are brilliant, powerful, and capable. Continue to be loud and disruptive and never allow anyone to make you feel inferior."

Manglona a thanks her sister, Mona, and brother-in-law Divine, her family, and friends for their continued support and guidance. ***(PR)***

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Attorney for Petitioner Keolani R. Romolor Angui

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

	: CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0119 CV
THE ESTATE OF ROSA ROGOPES ROMOLOR,	: NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Deceased.	: DATE: THUR, JUNE 23, 2022 : TIME: 10:00 A.M. : JUDGE: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ROSA ROGOPES ROMOLOR OR HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Keolani R. Romolor Angui** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Rosa Rogopes Romolor, the deceased. The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the attorney for Petitioner, **CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law**, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated this 25th day of May, 2022.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT/DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

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Star Marianas seeks info about new interisland airline

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Star Marianas Airlines Inc. has initiated an Open Government Act request demanding that the Commonwealth Ports Authority disclose its conversations with Saipan's MP Enterprises and Southern Airways Express over a planned airline that will provide interisland air service in the CNMI.

SMA sent its OGA request to CPA officials last week, stating that it wants to see all related documents and communications, among others, made available no later than Monday, June 6. SMA did not specify in its request what it needs the information for.

"Pursuant to 1 CMC $9917 (a) of the Commonwealth Open Government Act, Star Marianas Air, Inc. requests that the following be made available for inspection and possible copying: all documents and communications of any kind by and between the Commonwealth Ports Authority, MP Enterprises, and Southern Airways Express," SMA stated in its request.

In response, CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said that SMA can do as it pleases but she remains focused on supporting a policy that would provide an opportunity for other airlines interested in providing interisland service for the CNMI.

"SMA is going to do what SMA wants to do. What I'm far more interested in is supporting policy that creates an opportunity for new entries into the market for interisland passengers so that the communities of Tinian and Rota will never again be held hostage by any recalcitrant service provider," she said.

Aside from communications between CPA and stakeholders of the new, unnamed airline, SMA also wants all documents and communications of any kind by and between CPA and Ricondo & Associates, including but not limited to communications with Bonnie Osage.

In addition, SMA also wants all documents and communications of any kind by and between CPA and any other party, other government agencies, and the Office of the Governor concerning or relating to intra-island travel in the CNMI, interisland travel between the CNMI and Guam, and the Airline Incentive Program.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, this new planned airline is a joint venture between Saipan's MP Enterprises and Southern Airways Express, considered as America's largest commuter airline. The intent is to "revolutionize" interisland travel within the CNMI, according to Keith Stewart, president of MP Enterprises.

"We will launch service with multiple aircraft based [on] Saipan and [in] Guam, and we are planning for a total of seven aircraft over the next three years to meet the growing demand," said Stewart.

Services will commence in July.

Man accused of assaulting DOC officer

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man currently detained at the CNMI Department of Corrections in relation to a drug case pending in the U.S. District Court for the NMI has been accused of assaulting a DOC officer and possessing methamphetamine.

According to a recently unsealed grand jury indictment, Derik Camacho Reyes, a repeat drug offender currently detained at the Department of Corrections, is being charged with assaulting a prison guard and possession of methamphetamine in prison.

According to the redacted indictment against Reyes, he incarcerated at a maximum security section of the local prison when he assaulted and inflicted bodily injury on a Corrections officer last Feb. 15. On the same date, Reyes was allegedly also found to be in possession of methamphetamine, the indictment said.

At a hearing on May 24 before Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the District Court for the NMI, Reyes appeared in custody and, through court-appointed attorney David Banes, waived the reading of the charges and the reading of his rights. Reyes entered a plea of not guilty.

As required by Rule 5(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Manglona ordered the U.S. government to produce all exculpatory evidence to the defendant pursuant to *Brady v. Maryland* and its progeny.

"Not doing so in a timely manner may result in sanctions, including exclusion of evidence, adverse jury instructions, dismissal of charges and contempt proceedings," she said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Albert Flores Jr. appeared for the federal government.

Accepting the not-guilty plea of the defendant, Manglona set his jury trial for July 26.

Senator's bill removes DPL obligation to pay land compensation judgments

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) has introduced a bill that seeks to remove Department of Public Lands' obligation to pay land compensation judgments.

DeLeon Guerrero stated in Senate Bill 22-76 that the Commonwealth Code provides that DPL pays its debts, liabilities, obligations, operational expenses, including land compensation judgments, from its Operations Fund bank account.

The senator said the court has ruled that land compensation cannot be paid from the revenues generated from the management and disposition of public lands.

However, she said, land compensation for the expansion of water and wastewater systems is authorized using American Rescue Plan Act funds under the CNMI 2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report.

DeLeon Guerrero said the purpose of her bill is to amend 1 CMC Section 2803(c) to remove the payment of land compensation judgments by DPL.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, the senator said that the proposed legislation will only affect cases moving forward.

She said her reading of the recent Marianas Public Lands Trust 's annual report and discovery of ARPA funds set aside for land compensation prompted her to introduce the bill.

DeLeon Guerrero said DPL funds for their operational expenses are primarily sourced from public land lease revenue collectively owned by those of Northern Marianas descents.

She said the savings clause provides the protections for prior land compensation judgments and should not be affected by the proposed bill. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-016

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LIGHT AND HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of light and heavy duty vehicles for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-22-016, Supply and Delivery of Light and Heavy Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 23, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 3, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Yvonne C. Ogumoro, CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL
CUC-RAESP-22-027

A&E Design Services For Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Water System Mitigation Project PH II, PH I.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from FEMA HMGP.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RAESP-22-027, A&E Design Services for Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 27, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 6, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

McDonald's Middle Road unveils remodeled store with grand reopening

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

McDonald's Middle Road in Chalan Kiya marked its grand reopening last Saturday with activities geared mostly for children like parlor games and face-painting.

Branch general manager Jocelyn Asistores said the fast-food franchise holder on Saipan marked the occasion with children's games like ring toss, goal toss, and knock down the cups. Winners went home with McDonald's gift certificates. They also had a face-painting corner where two of the branch's staff transforming children into their favorite characters.

To top it all off, McDonald's Middle Road also had a grand reopening cake to mark the occasion. Food specials were also offered, such as a $1.99 McDonald's six-piece chicken nuggets and $1 off McDonald's 20-piece chicken nuggets (coupon should be presented).

Asistores said the Chalan Kiya location's $2-million renovation happenred in phases. The first part involved giving the lobby a more modern look and installation of self-serve kiosks and was completed last Jan. 8.

MARK RABAGO

McDonald's Middle Road in Chalan Kiya marked the completion of its $2-million renovation with a grand reopening last Saturday.

The second phase was the construction of the two-lane drive-thru and upgrading the outdoor digital menu board, while the last phase called for bringing in new equipment for the kitchen, training the staff on the new system, and the return of the mobile order pay.

Saturday's grand reopening was truly an all-hands on deck affair: Not even an hour past the start of celebrations at 3pm, McDonald's Middle Road had already served nearly 800 customers.

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan president and owner/operator Joe Ayuyu, who was off-island during the grand reopening, welcomed the completion of the long-awaited renovation of its flagship restaurant on Saipan.

"I'm very, very happy with the modernization of our restaurant. I'm happy the community is receiving it well and they deserve it. Now I can say that we're up to what we see in terms of restaurant presentation and technology. What you see in New York is exactly the same as what you see here," he said in an email message.

The Middle Road location now has all the bells and whistles of modern technology following its major facelift. Front and center of this modernization are the six self-order kiosk screens in the main lobby that allows customers to order at their leisure and customize their meals.

Table service is also a new convenience not offered before at McDonald's Saipan. Ditto for the double-lane drive-thru that now allows two cars to order at the same time in two different speakers. Customers can also check their order on a big digital menu board that shows menu changes from breakfast to lunch and vice versa. The digital video screen menu is also repeated indoors at the sleek modern counter.

"We have served our community for 29 years and Saipan deserves a state-of-the-art McDonald's we can all be proud of," said Ayuyu. "I hope our island residents will come and enjoy the modern conveniences and friendly employees serving delicious food for many years to come."

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan, locally owned and operated by franchisee Joe and Marcia Ayuyu, is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Marianas. First opened in 1993, the organization includes eight McDonald's restaurants, two on Saipan and six on Guam. In 2016, the Ayuyu's acquired all McDonald's restaurants in Guam and has remained one of the largest employers in the U.S. territory.

MARK RABAGO

Six-year-old Adrian Mercado has his face painted by a McDonald's Middle Road staff.

MARK RABAGO

McDonald's Middle Road also had a special cake to mark the grand reopening.

OIA provides $27.7M in CIP grants to territories

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced $27,720,000 in fiscal year 2022 Capital Improvement Project grant funding for priority needs across the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"CIP grants are among our most effective means to support priority needs in the territories," said deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. "This year's investments will go far in funding public facilities such as schools, hospitals, and clinics across the territories."

The $27.72 million grant award is broken down as follows: American Samoa, $10,262,636; CNMI, $8,829,728; Guam, $6,627,636; and USVI, $2,000,000.

For more about the OIA and the CIP program, visit www.doi.gov/oia. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 | www.marianas.edu

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROJECT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
NMCRQS 22-002

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualification Statements" for Architectural/Engineering Services for the "Workforce Development and Training Center.

The request for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" packets are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing 10:00am Friday, April 29, 2022 for Electronic packet email request to anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

Pre-submittal conference is schedule for 09:00am-10:00am, May 11, 2022 CNMI Via Zoom. Attendance is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

Qualification Statements Submissions
Due date and time: 10:00am, May 31, 2022 (CNMI)
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus

Paid for by 100% federal funds through the Department of Commerce Economic Development Investment Grant.

This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all Qualification Statements for any reason and waive any defect in said Qualification Statements, or cancel in part or its entirety this Request for Qualification Statements, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1st, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
  d. Adoption of Minutes (October 22, 2021)
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  a. CDBG-DR Updates – Housing, Infrastructure, and Economic Development
  b. FY 2020 Audit
  c. Tropex Garden Appeal
V. NEW BUSINESS
  a. Additional Staffing for HAF and CDBG-DR Programs
VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR
COURIER SERVICE
CPA-RFP-005-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (RFP), and other contract provisions, for proposals from service providers to provide mail/courier services for the CPA.

Proposals must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands no later than **4:30 PM, MONDAY, MAY 31, 2022**. Proposals received after this date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. One original and three copies of each proposal shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked as 'Confidential' and each envelope must include the RFP number on the outside. It is the sole responsibility of a proposer to submit its proposal or proposals in a timely manner.

A Proposal Package consisting of the Scope of Work and further details is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning May 02, 2022. There is no charge for the proposal package.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to chris.tenorio@cnmiports.com with copy to atudela@cnmiports.com. Deadline for questions and inquiries is 2:00 p.m. May 23, 2022.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 107

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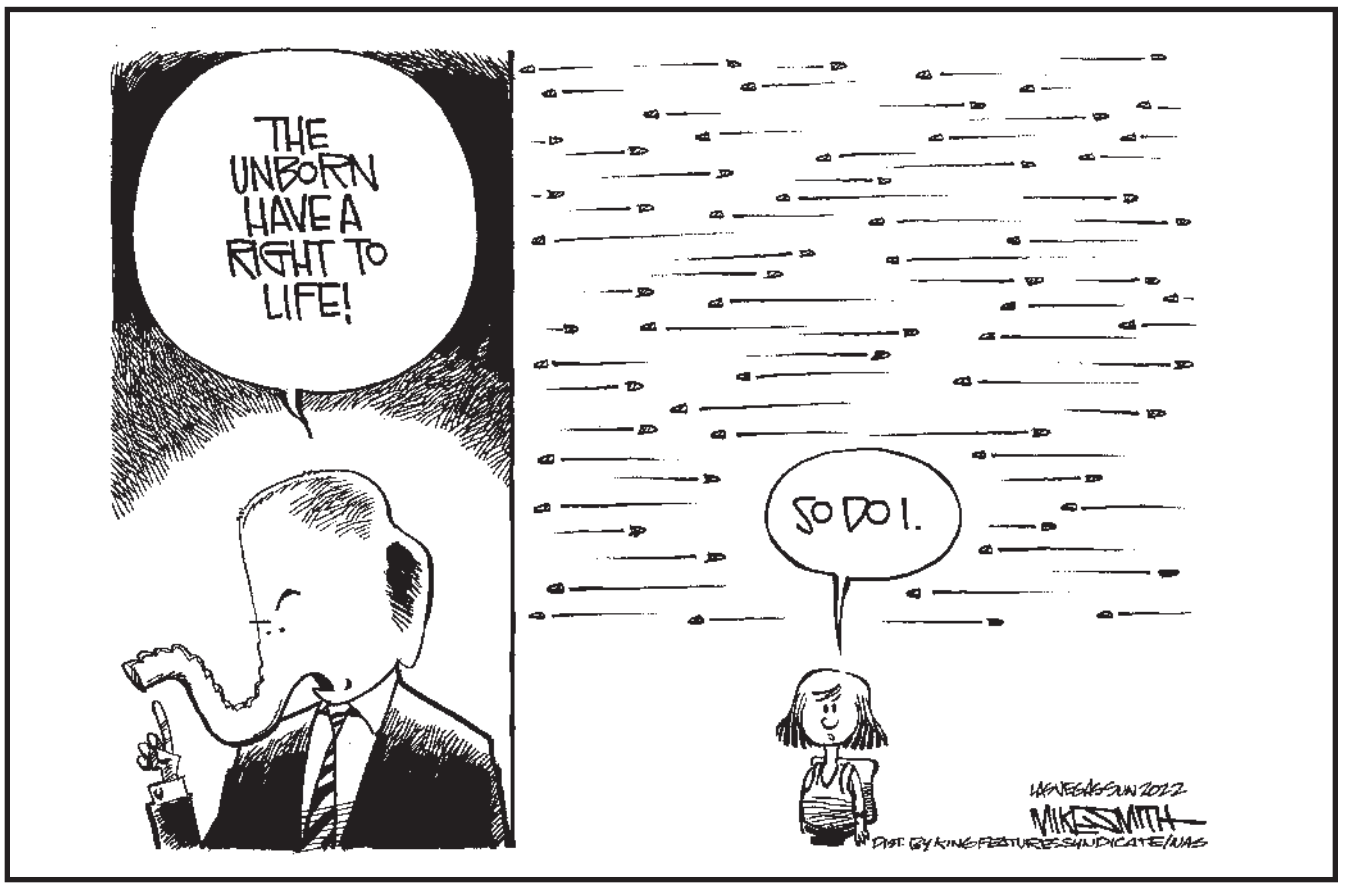

EDITORIAL

Most Americans want stricter gun laws. Senate Republicans don't seem to care

Gun-control opponents like to say that guns don't kill people, people kill people.

Yet strict gun control will be in eåffect at Friday's National Rifle Association conference in Houston during a speech by former President Donald Trump.

That's right. At the gathering of the most ardent opponents of gun control, in the state where Republican Gov. Greg Abbott signed one of the nation's laxest gun laws—allowing almost everyone over age 21 to carry handguns without a license—Trump will enjoy the safety of a room where firearms are banned. The Secret Service insists on it.

If only the children and teachers of Texas could be assured such respite in their own classrooms.

Instead, we live in a country where Tuesday's horrific news that a gunman massacred 19 children and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, amounted to the latest entry in a long and tragic list of mass shootings that have killed and injured people at schools, grocery stores, churches, synagogues, movie theaters, concerts, nightclubs and even an office holiday party.

No wonder most Americans want stronger national gun control. A Gallup poll this year found that 52% of Americans said laws regarding the sale of firearms should be made more strict. While that number is lower than it was a few years ago—perhaps a reflection of the gun-buying binge that took place during the COVID-19 pandemic—Gallup's research nonetheless finds strong public support for common-sense restrictions. That includes proposals to require background checks for all gun purchases, ban high-capacity ammunition magazines and assault weapons, and require a 30-day waiting period for all gun sales.

Congress should act with haste to pass these ideas into law. They won't stop the nation's gun violence problem—there are now more guns than people in the United States—but they can help reduce it. Data show that states with strict gun control laws have a lower rate of gun deaths than those with a lax approach to regulating firearms.

So it was a revolting, head-spinning act of arrogance for Abbott to say Wednesday that shootings in California and Illinois "prove" that the gun laws here don't work.

Then there was the folly of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton suggesting that the way to curb school shootings is to arm teachers, principals, gym coaches, maybe even guidance counselors. Do we really want to turn those whom we entrust with our children's education into poorly trained security officers?

The House passed legislation last year to expand mandatory background checks to include nearly every transfer of a firearm, a long-overdue requirement. But it stalled in the Senate, where the arcane filibuster rule requires support from 60 senators to advance most legislation—and Republicans have so far refused to act. And because Democratic Sen. Joe

See MOST on Next Page

The US needs paid sick leave. Here's how to get it right

Paid leave has emerged from the pandemic as a popular policy, frequently invoked as one route to move America forward from COVID-19 and its brutal impact on workforces nationwide.

The U.S. is the only wealthy nation in the world that does not guarantee workers paid time off when they are sick. Instead, we have a patchwork of state and local paid sick leave laws that leave big gaps in coverage for workers. If the country passes a national sick leave policy to make existing state-by-state protections more universal, the hope is that workers will get necessary protections for their health, protecting their workplaces at the same time.

If only it were that simple. Americans do need a national paid sick leave policy. But we also need to recognize that this policy will fail unless it's designed to improve on what even the best state policies currently offer.

The lack of sick leave is an economic inequality problem. While large percentages of high-wage workers are paid for sick days, that's true for only about 30% of the lowest-paid workers, per a Pew Research Center report. Around 33.6 million Americans, mostly within low-income brackets, don't have any paid sick time off.

It's also a public health problem. Without paid sick leave, workers in low-wage, essential and frontline industries often have no choice but to work sick. As a result, they risk infecting co-workers, clients, patients and the public at large—as has devastatingly happened in understaffed nursing homes that relied on COVID-infected employees.

On the other hand, when workers have access to paid sick leave, it substantially limits outbreaks from the flu and foodborne illnesses. The Families First Coronavirus Relief Act—Congress' temporary paid sick leave law—helped flatten the curve for COVID-19 infections.

The data clearly supports universal paid sick leave. That may help explain why President Joe Biden name-checked paid leave in this year's State of the Union and why it was among the most fought-for policies in his now stalled "Build Back Better" legislation.

But clamoring for a national paid sick leave law and creating one that works are two very different things. Rather than simply replicating existing state and local paid sick leave policies in a federal proposal—which Congress has tried and failed to do via the Healthy Families Act—we need to focus on the vulnerable workers routinely left out of sick leave policy.

The main problem with most state and local paid sick leave laws is that they depend on workers filing complaints with the appropriate government agency or court if employers flout the law. But much of America's low-wage workforce is too scared of employer retaliation to file complaints, especially not at the risk of losing their jobs. Workers who are migrants or immigrants, or who live with undocumented family members, additionally fear immigration detention and deportation if they complain.

By SHEFALI MILCZAREK-DESAI
Los Angeles Times

Shefali Milczarek-Desai is an associate professor of law, director of the Workers' Rights Clinic, co-chair of the Bacon Immigration Law and Policy Program, and a Distinguished Public Service Scholar at the University of Arizona College of Law. @ shefalimdesai

As a result, many low-wage workers do not get paid sick time even in places with robust laws. A survey of essential workers in Massachusetts—a state that guarantees paid sick leave—found that early in the pandemic, 17% of workers didn't get paid sick time, especially if they were low-wage or Latino.

Beyond placing the burden on workers to speak out when their rights are violated, these laws also place the entire burden of paying out sick time on individual employers. Many are cash-strapped or do not see the benefits of paid sick leave. Research, in fact, suggests that American businesses would save $150 billion per year if workers did not show up to work sick and that workers do not abuse paid sick days but rather save them up and use them judiciously.

But these benefits will elude many employers and workers under a national system that continues to saddle individual workers with complaint-making and individual employers with full payment.

There are ways to avoid these pitfalls. Congress could create a system similar to those in Canada, France, Ireland, Japan and elsewhere that use taxes to pay workers for a certain number of annual sick days. This is essentially what Congress did to mandate nine months of coronavirus-related paid sick leave. Because this leave benefits everyone by limiting viral spread, it makes sense to share its costs.

Alternatively, Congress could pursue a workers' compensation-type model. Under this system, employers would pay into a mandated insurance program, which in turn would pay out sick days to workers up to a certain number of hours per year. In nearly all states, workers can receive compensation benefits regardless of their immigration status. This should be true of any paid leave system as well.

Paid sick leave is a policy of mutual aid that supports workers, businesses and the public during a pandemic and beyond. If we hope to reap its many benefits, a national paid sick leave law must be designed to reach all workers, not exclude the most vulnerable.

Can any American parent honestly say school massacres are 'unimaginable'?

By PAUL THORNTON
Los Angeles Times

Paul Thornton is the Los Angeles Times' *letters editor.*

"Unimaginable" is a word that's been thrown around a lot after 19 students, mostly fourth graders, and two teachers were slaughtered Tuesday in Uvalde, Texas.

Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York, Gov. Kim Reynolds of Iowa, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick of Texas—all Republicans who have pushed to eliminate sensible gun regulations—use the word to convey their shock, shock that a lot of innocent people would end up dead in a country with more guns than people.

What a funny word to use, "unimaginable." If only all American families could merely "imagine" the horror rather than experience it, along with the profound grief of finding out that you dropped your kids off to their death at school one morning. I've imagined it—this precise scenario, on occasions more frequent than anyone living in a civilized society should.

I have 10-year-old twins, in fourth grade at the local public school, exactly like those 19 children in Texas murdered Tuesday, days before they were supposed to start summer break.

I've imagined my children—and surely other parents have too—spending their final seconds in terrifying uncertainty and pain. After tough mornings getting the kids ready for school (show me parents who claim to remain calm while rushing their kids out of the house, and I'll show you a liar), I've even thought as I watch my kids disappear into their classrooms, "I'd hate for that to be their last memory of me if there's a mass shooting today."

And why shouldn't I think this? It's not as if these are unfounded fears. Since my children were born, we've lived through the national tragedy of Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012, when 20 first graders and six staff members were killed by one man who could apply a few pounds of pressure to an assault rifle trigger; and then again in 2018 when 17 students and staff were shot to death at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

I can go back to 1999, when periodic massacres of children were truly unimaginable. It was then that my 11th grade Spanish teacher sobbed as he discussed what happened at Columbine High School in Colorado, where 12 teenagers my age were murdered. That tragedy came out of nowhere, or at least we were naïve enough to think so.

Then Congress allowed the national assault weapons ban to expire in 2004. Then Newtown happened, and lawmakers put on one of the most brazen displays of ideological extremism in thwarting meaningful gun legislation. Then a woman who harassed a Parkland survivor outside the U.S. Capitol won a seat in Congress.

This is worse than imaginable. It's reality, and the consequences are predictable.

We're all talking about mass shootings now, as we should be, but those of us who routinely surrender our children to the care of educators have been dealing with anxiety over gun violence for years.

It doesn't help that the most visible government response to the carnage has been to order flags lowered to half staff, a conspicuous reminder in places like schools that something's wrong.

In fact, the day my twins started second grade (their last "normal" first day of school before the pandemic), the American and state flags that wave above the front gate were lowered. The occasion? Not one, but two mass shootings: Twenty-three people had been killed that August in a racist attack targeting Latinos in El Paso, Texas. The day after that shooting, nine people were killed in Dayton, Ohio.

What an auspiciously American way to start a school year.

For now, as my children's school careens toward summer vacation, things look mostly normal, though there were noticeably fewer kids in attendance at the morning dropoffs this week. Mrs. B and Mr. Manny, surely the most dedicated support staff in Alhambra public schools, still greet each student by name, in English or Spanish as needed, and parents still linger to talk as our kids walk past the gates.

We're clinging to these comforts of a community. But it's not hard to imagine this life, based on a fundamental assumption of personal safety, destroyed in minutes by a shooter, all of it ebbing away.

After Uvalde, will schools become less inviting to parents and other family members? After Laguna Woods, will churches regard visitors with more suspicion? After Buffalo, will grocery stores near "food deserts" close shop? Hard to say. But we'll continue taking our children to school, buying groceries and attending church because we need to.

As a high school student in 1999, I was upset, but I didn't feel unsafe after the Columbine massacre. Now, as a parent in 2022, the slaughter of 19 schoolchildren two time zones away feels very close to home.

It certainly doesn't feel "unimaginable."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To our Champions of the Marianas

Our community is changing rapidly with the influx of different people with different values, and we must act now to preserve our culture of love and respect for one another. We all share one common goal and vision of a healthy, prosperous, safe, and welcoming Marianas. I would like to challenge you this Pride Month. Every week, starting June 1, choose one of five goals below and put it into action. Everyone working together will bring us one step closer to our vision.

1. Look at the policies, benefits, employee trainings and practices in my company/department/organization:

Does it *(policies, employee trainings and signs/posters*) have an anti-discrimination policy for both customer/client and employees specifically identifying gender identity and sexual orientation as part of sex discrimination? *(If your answer is no, T-Project provides LGBTQ+ Cultural Competency and Diversity Trainings, and policy development)*

My goal for week _____ is to work with my HR department and T-Project to establish training so that my employees and our customers/clients feel and see that my company is a safe place for all and that we value their diversity and will protect them from harm.

2. My goal for week____ is to contribute $_____ to T-Project. *(I understand my contribution is tax deductible and will benefit the CNMI, young and the young at heart, through the many projects and events throughout the years.)*

3. I will participate in workplace development for our youth in the T-Project Junior Ambassador Program and teach and inspire them to grow up and become progressive leaders of tomorrow.

(I understand that LGBTQ+ kids, especially trans and non-binary, have a harder time developing socially due to the stigma and bullying they experience daily and develop internal phobia)

4. My goal for week ___ is to share the Pride Calendar to all my employees. *(I understand that by doing this, I am also notifying them of our company and my values of love and respect for one another.)*

5. My goal for week ____ is to display pride-themed decorations (*flags, posters, stickers) in my employee lounge and customer reception area/front counter. T-Project has stickers, shirts, posters, flags both big and small, pins and other materials you may purchase. Please inquire)*

I look forward to hearing from you and I am excited to seeing the transformation this action plan will bring. Please be sure to send us pictures of your company values in action! Have a blessed day! Let's go!

Tyra Lyn Sablan
Executive director/founder, T-Project

Stimulus ideas

We the people are suffering with power, gas, and everything as the cost for living presents an entirely new challenge, especially for the poor and those on fixed-incomes. The federal government sent help to the people in the form of over a half-billion dollars and yet the first thing this governor did was to put $80 million on a homestead plan that we the people don't even need at this point in time. The governor needs to take that $80 million back and give it to the newly established medical referral program, as it is needed now and health issues surely supersede a homestead program we don't need. Yes, the governor has given us a few crumbs of the stimulus funding but he needs to do a whole lot more as we are suffering. There needs to be a steady stream of stimulus support for the people until the money runs out, instead of this piecemeal stuff the governor is doing.

We need:

1. A monthly subsidy of at least $50 to $75 with our power bills, applicable to everyone or at least those people on food stamps as it's a clear fact they are suffering. These people can get their CUC voucher when they pick up their food stamps.

2. A monthly subsidy of at least $100 for all retirees who are also living on a fixed income.

3. The bonuses are great for public employees and I offer kudos to Sen. Edith Deleon Guerrero and the co-authors of the bill. But these bonuses should also continue until all the funding is spent. Working people need and deserve a pay-period stimulus pay for everyone working and paying taxes.

These three ideas really represent the "stimulus support reform" for what a lot of the federal stimulus funding was intended—to help people.

People are asking me to please say something as it has gotten ridiculously expensive to live in the CNMI while wages and retirement checks for people have remained virtually the same for the past two decades. Well, I have offered my suggestion as you can see above, but the question is: Will the powers-that-be listen? Maybe the House can generate a resolution to spend the remaining stimulus funds, as it's obvious the governor didn't get full reprograming authority and it seems the governor doesn't really know what to do now or he would have told us. But he and his lawyers are too busy trying to beat the system, instead of coming up with a permanent plan to help people who are suffering with their bills in this inflation, along with the need to improve our healthcare system and human services infrastructure.

FYI, governor, all of America is experiencing an inflation explosion for virtually everything and it's twice as hard on citizens in the CNMI, as prices and the cost of living have always been higher in the CNMI than on the mainland. If you truly care about your people, then spend the remaining stimulus funding on people, because you can't go wrong if you treat people like your own. It's truly time to "come to Jesus," governor, as we say in the hood, and do some good in the neighborhood by creating real and perpetual stimulus relief reforms that your people need and stop this piecemeal stuff you are doing, which is literally like putting a Band-Aid on a broken arm.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

MOST

From Page 8

Manchin III of West Virginia won't vote to suspend the filibuster (though he does support "common-sense" gun legislation), the Democratic majority can't act without Republican support.

Will the small, bullet-riddled bodies in Uvalde, where many of those killed were just 10 years old, finally cause the nation's leaders to come together to pass reasonable limits on access to deadly weapons? We are not optimistic. It's been a decade since a gunman killed 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School, most of whom were 6 and 7 years old. In that time, most elected Republicans have repeatedly chosen fealty to the National Rifle Assn. over common-sense firearm policy.

But Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., is holding out for the possibility of a bipartisan agreement on gun control. For the safety of the nation, we urgently hope it will succeed. Democrats would be wise to look for common ground.

And Republicans should take a cue from the NRA conference in Houston. In agreeing to ban firearms, but not people, in the hall for Trump's speech, the group acknowledges the obvious: Yes. Guns do kill people.

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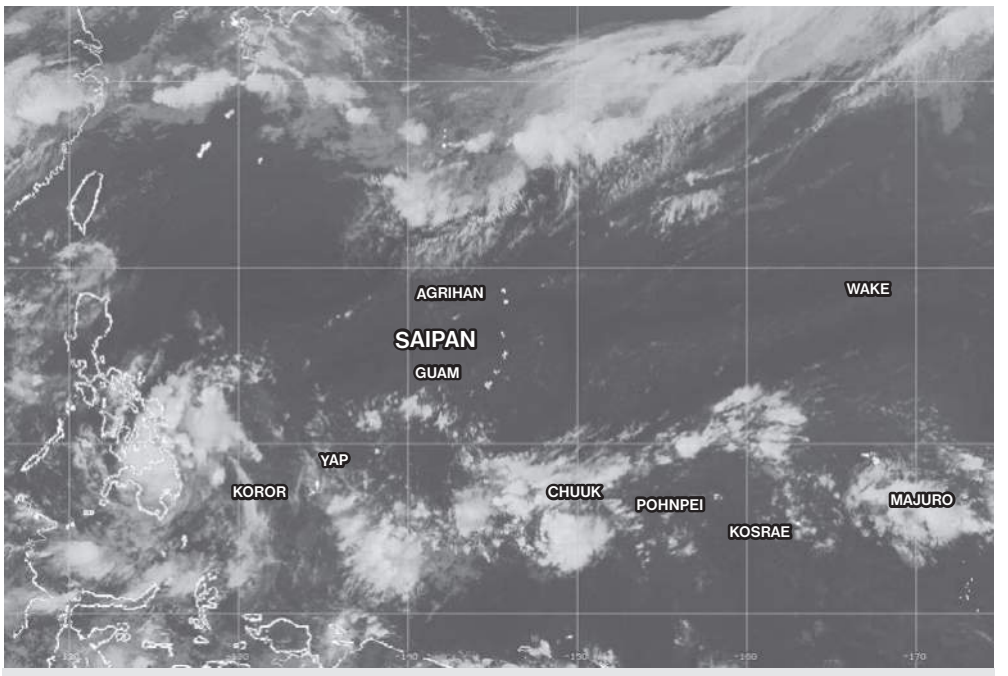
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDA	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. East wind around 7 mph.	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. Calm wind becoming northeast 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon.	Mostly sunny,	Mostly cloudy, with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy, with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.
88° 77°	90° 77°	88° 78°	88° 79°	88° 75°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME:8:56 AM, MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate east winds prevail in the Marianas today, becoming gentle thereafter. Ritidian buoy indicates seas between 3 and 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	31 / 26 °F
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	30 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:45 AM	18:43 PM
Wednesday	05:45 AM	18:43 PM
Thursday	05:45 AM	18:44 PM
Friday	05:45 AM	18:44 PM
Saturday	05:45 AM	18:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	06:02	19:26 PM	-
Wednesday	06:49	20:18 PM	-
Thursday	07:39	21:09 PM	-
Friday	08:30	21:57 PM	-
Saturday	09:22	22:42 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	PM Showers	19 / 16 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	33 / 15 °F
Hong Kong	AM Thunderstorms	30 / 27 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	29 / 23 °F
London	Showers	17 / 8 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	24 / 14 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	32 / 26 °F
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	32 / 26 °F
Miami	Scattered Thunderstorms	28 / 24 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	35 / 18 °F
Osaka	Few Showers	26 / 16 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	22 / 10 °F
Busan	Sunny	26 / 18 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	31 / 18 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	31 / 19 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	21 / 10 °F
Seoul	Sunny	26 / 15 °F
Tokyo	AM Shower	23 / 18 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	35 / 23 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
02:25 AM	Low Tide	1.38
07:01 AM	High Tide	1.90
2:29 PM	Low Tide	-0.07
9:45 PM	High Tide	1.94

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:35AM	7:15AM	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:35AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	6:35AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX622	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 6
UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	5, 7
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:25PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 16, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Monday & Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Monday & Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

CEO pay rose 17% in 2021 as profits soared; workers trailed

NEW YORK (AP)—Even when regular workers win their biggest raises in decades, they look minuscule compared with what CEOs are getting.

The typical compensation package for chief executives who run S&P 500 companies soared 17.1% last year, to a median $14.5 million, according to data analyzed for The Associated Press by Equilar.

The gain towers over the 4.4% increase in wages and benefits netted by private-sector workers through 2021, which was the fastest on record going back to 2001. The raises for many rank-and-file workers also failed to keep up with inflation, which reached 7% at the end of last year.

CEO pay took off as stock prices and profits rebounded sharply as the economy roared out of its brief 2020 recession. Because much of a CEO's compensation is tied to such performance, their pay packages ballooned after years of mostly moderating growth.

In many of the most eye-popping packages, such as Expedia Group's, valued at $296.2 million and JPMorgan Chase's $84.4 million, boards gave particularly big grants of stock or stock options to recently appointed CEOs navigating their companies through the pandemic or to established leaders they wanted to convince to hang around.

The CEOs often can't cash in on such stock or options for years, or possibly ever, unless the company meets performance targets. But companies still must disclose estimates for how much they're worth. Only about a quarter of the typical pay package for all S&P 500 CEOs last year came as actual cash they could pocket.

AP

This combination photo shows the highest paid male and female CEOs in the S&P 500 index for 2021, as calculated by The Associated Press and Equilar, an executive data firm. Top row, from left, Bill McDermott of ServiceNow, Mary Barra of General Motors, Tim Cook of Apple, Adena Friedman of Nasdaq, and David Zaslav of Warner Bros. Discovery. Bottom row, from left, Kathy Warden of Northrop Grumman, Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase, Lisa Su of Advanced Micro Devices, Phebe Novakovic of General Dynamics, and Peter Kern of Expedia Group. The median pay package for the CEOs of the biggest U.S. companies rose 17.1% in 2021 as the economy rebounded and company profits and stock prices jumped.

Whatever its composition, the chasm in pay between CEOs and the rank-and-file workers they oversee keeps widening. At half the companies in this year's pay survey, it would take the worker at the middle of the company's pay scale at least 186 years to make what their CEO did last year. That's up from 166 a year earlier.

At Walmart, for example, the company said its median associate made $25,335 in compensation last year. That means half its workers made more, and half made less.

That's up 21% from $20,942 a year earlier and came as the company's average hourly wage for U.S. associates rose from $14.50 in January 2021 to more than $17 currently. That increase was bigger than the raise CEO Doug McMillon got, on a percentage basis. But his 13.7% raise netted him a total package valued at $25.7 million.

Anger is growing over such an imbalance. Surveys suggest Americans across political parties see CEO pay as too high, and some investors are pushing back.

Workers are trying to organize unions across the country, and the "Great Resignation" has emboldened millions to quit to find better jobs elsewhere. The U.S. government counted more than 4 million quits during April 2021 alone, the first time that happened. The monthly number has since topped 4.5 million twice.

"That is going to add a huge cost to corporate bottom lines, to have these kind of turnover rates," said Sarah Anderson, director of the global economy project at the progressive Institute for Policy Studies.

Flight cancellations pile up on busy Memorial Day weekend

ATLANTA (AP)—Hundreds of flights worldwide were canceled by Sunday evening, adding to the mounting number of scrubbed flights during the busy Memorial Day holiday weekend in the U.S.

About 1,460 flights had been canceled as of 7 p.m. EDT Sunday, according to flight tracking website FlightAware. That followed more than 2,300 cancellations Friday and another 1,500 on Saturday.

Nearly 450 of Sunday's cancellations involved aircraft scheduled to fly to or from U.S. cities.

Delta Air Lines canceled the most flights among major U.S. airlines, with more than 250 flights, or 9% of its operations, eliminated Saturday. One hundred and sixty Delta flights were canceled by Sunday evening, according to FlightAware.

Saturday's cancellations were due to bad weather and "air traffic control actions," Atlanta-based Delta said in an email to The Associated Press, noting it's trying to cancel flights at least 24 hours in advance of the Memorial Day weekend.

Delta announced on its website on Thursday that from July 1 to Aug. 7, it would reduce service by about 100 daily departures, primarily in parts of the U.S. and Latin America that Delta frequently serves.

"More than any time in our history, the various factors currently impacting our operation—weather and air traffic control, vendor staffing, increased COVID case rates contributing to higher-than-planned unscheduled absences in some work groups—are resulting in an operation that isn't consistently up to the standards Delta has set for the industry in recent years," Delta's Chief Customer Experience Officer Allison Ausband said in a post.

Airlines and tourist destinations are anticipating huge crowds this summer as travel restrictions ease and pandemic fatigue overcomes lingering fear of contracting COVID-19 during travel.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wall Street breaks 7-week losing streak, longest since 2001

NEW YORK (AP)—Technology companies led a broad rally for stocks Friday as Wall Street notched its best week in 18 months. The gain broke a seven-week losing streak for the market, the longest such stretch since 2001. The S&P 500 rose 2.5% and finished 6.6% higher for the week, its best weekly gain since November 2020. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.8% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq gained 3.3%.The strong finish for the week came as investors received potentially encouraging news about inflation. The Commerce Department said that inflation rose 6.3% in April from a year earlier, the first slowdown since November 2020 and a sign that high prices may finally be moderating, at least for now. The report was released as Wall Street looks for any signal that inflation could be easing, while trying to figure out just how low stocks might sink. "At this point that's all the market needs," said Ross Mayfield, investment strategy analyst at Baird. "It's definitely one of the signs you would want to see."

Woman gets 15 months in prison for punching flight attendant

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A California woman who punched a Southwest Airlines flight attendant in the face during a flight, breaking her teeth, has been sentenced to 15 months in federal prison. Vyvianna Quinonez was also ordered Tuesday by the federal judge in San Diego to pay nearly $26,000 in restitution and a $7,500 fine for the assault on a May 23, 2021, Southwest flight between Sacramento and San Diego. The 29-year-old Sacramento woman is prohibited from flying for three years while she is on supervised release and must participate in anger management classes or counseling. Quinonez last year pleaded guilty to one count of interference with flight crew members and attendants, admitting she punched the flight attendant in the face and head with a closed fist and grabbed her hair.

Russia test-fires its latest hypersonic Zircon missile

MOSCOW (AP)—The Russian navy on Saturday conducted another test of a prospective hypersonic missile, a demonstration of the military's long-range strike capability amid the fighting in Ukraine. The Defense Ministry said the Admiral Gorshkov frigate of the Northern Fleet in the White Sea launched the Zircon cruise missile in the Barents Sea, successfully hitting a practice target in the White Sea about 1,000 kilometers (540 nautical miles) away.

The launch was the latest in a series of tests of Zircon, which is set to enter service later this year. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that Zircon is capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and has a range of 1,000 kilometers (620 miles). Putin has emphasized that its deployment will significantly boost the capability of Russia's military. Zircon is intended to arm Russian cruisers, frigates and submarines and could be used against both enemy ships and ground targets. It is one of several hypersonic missiles under development in Russia.

Serbia ignores EU sanctions, secures gas deal with Putin

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—As the war in Ukraine rages, Serbia's president announced that he has secured an "extremely favorable" natural gas deal with Russia during a telephone conversation Sunday with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic has refused to explicitly condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and his country has not joined Western sanctions against Moscow. Vucic claims he wants to take Serbia into the European Union but has spent recent years cementing ties with Russia, a long-time ally. The gas deal is likely to be signed during a visit by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to Belgrade early in June—a rare visit by a ranking Russian official to a European country since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began Feb. 24. Vucic said he told Putin that he wished "peace would be established as soon as possible." Serbia is almost entirely dependent on Russian gas, and its main energy companies are under Russian majority ownership.

Nation

Uvalde tells Biden to 'do something'; he pledges 'we will'

UVALDE, Texas (AP)—President Joe Biden grieved with the shattered community of Uvalde on Sunday, mourning privately for three hours with anguished families of the 19 schoolchildren and two teachers killed by a gunman. Faced with chants of "do something" as he departed a church service, Biden pledged: "We will."

At Robb Elementary School, Biden visited a memorial of 21 white crosses—one for each of those killed—and first lady Jill Biden added a bouquet of white flowers to those already placed in front of the school sign. The couple then viewed individual altars erected in memory of each student, the first lady touching the children's photos as they moved along the row.

After visiting the memorial, Biden attended Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where several victims' families are members, and one of the families was in attendance.

Speaking directly to the children in the congregation, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller tried to assuage the fears of the youngsters, some appearing about the same age as the victims.

"You have seen the news, you have witnessed the tears of your parents, friends," he said, encouraging them not to be afraid of life. "You are the best reminders to us that the lives of the little ones are important."

As Biden departed church to meet privately with family members, a crowd of about 100 people began chanting "do something." Biden answered, "We will," as he got into his car. It was his only public comment during roughly seven hours in Uvalde.

Biden later tweeted that he grieves, prays and stands with the people of Uvalde. "And we are committed to turning this pain into action," he said.

The visit to Uvalde was Biden's second trip in as many weeks to console a community in loss after a mass shooting. He traveled to Buffalo, New York, on May 17 to meet with victims' families and condemn white supremacy after a shooter espousing the racist "replacement theory" killed 10 Black people at a supermarket.

Both shootings and their aftermath put a fresh spotlight on the nation's entrenched divisions and its inability to forge consensus on actions to reduce gun violence.

"Evil came to that elementary school classroom in Texas, to that grocery store in New York, to far too many places where innocents have died," Biden said Saturday in a commencement address at the University of Delaware. "We have to stand stronger. We must stand stronger. We cannot outlaw tragedy, I know, but we can make America safer."

Biden also met with first responders before the trip back to his home in Delaware. It was not clear if the group included officers who were involved in the immediate response to the shooting.

AP

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden stand in front of the memorial outside Robb Elementary School to honor the victims killed in this week's school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, Sunday, May 29, 2022.

After Texas shooting, schools around US boost security

By TERRY TANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the aftermath of the elementary school massacre in Uvalde, Texas, schools around the U.S. have brought in additional security staff and restricted visitors as they deal with a new rash of copycat threats.

For some families and educators it all has added to uneasiness in the wake of the deadliest school shooting since the 2012 attack at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Jake Green, 34, of Los Alamos, New Mexico, was jolted when he saw a plainclothes police officer for the first time while walking his 7-year-old daughter into school Friday morning. He grew up in Colorado, not far from where two Columbine High School students shot and killed 12 classmates and a teacher in 1999.

Green remembers attending memorials and candlelight vigils as a fifth-grader, but he's torn about whether having police at his daughter's school is best.

"In a way, I don't really feel any safer with police around," Green said. "Seeing the police there, it really made it seem like the worst possibility was even more possible today."

In El Paso, Texas, where a gunman killed 23 people in a racist 2019 attack that targeted Hispanics at a Walmart, schools are on edge. The El Paso Independent School District has already encountered some reported threats that turned out to be false. They were either "students joking or overly-sensitive parents," said Gustavo Reveles Acosta, a district spokesperson.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 6 wounded in shooting in Chattanooga, Tennessee

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP)—Police in Tennessee said six people were wounded during an exchange of gunfire in a downtown Chattanooga business district. At least one person of interest was detained shortly after the shooting Saturday night, police spokesperson Jeremy Eames said Sunday in a news release. The statement did not indicate whether anyone was charged. Officers who were patrolling the area heard gunshots and saw multiple people shooting weapons and numerous people fleeing the area. Officers began rendering aid to the victims and assisting others to safety. Several gunshot victims were taken to a hospital and two of the injuries were life threatening, Eames said. The ages of the victims were not immediately released but most were believed to be teenagers and young adults. Eames said large groups of juveniles were walking around the downtown area "and we believe it's from within that group that the shooting took place."

California school kids sickened after eating cannabis candy

BAYSIDE, Calif. (AP)—Three third-grade students at a Northern California elementary school were hospitalized after inadvertently eating cannabis gummies, authorities said. A student shared the gummies with four other kids during their snack recess on Thursday at Jacoby Creek Elementary in the Humboldt County community of Bayside, police and school officials said. The student who brought the edibles to school didn't know they contained marijuana, they said. Three children were taken to receive medical attention after they began to display signs of intoxication, Jacoby Creek superintendent and principal Melanie Nannizzi told parents in an email. All three kids were released from the hospital and are doing well, Nannizzi told the Times-Standard newspaper in Eureka. The classroom was initially evacuated over concerns the kids might have been reacting to carbon monoxide exposure, Nannizzi told parents.

3 more bodies found after Georgia boat crash; man charged

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Searchers recovered the bodies of three missing boaters Sunday after two vessels collided on a Georgia river, bringing the crash's death toll to five people. One of the surviving boaters was charged with boating under the influence. Two people were found dead shortly after the Saturday collision on the Wilmington River near Savannah, authorities said. The bodies of the three missing people were recovered Sunday morning, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Sgt. Cindy Miller told WTOC-TV. They were found in water about 14 feet (4.3 meters) deep, and in close proximity to each other, authorities said. One of the boats had six people aboard and the other carried three people, the U.S. Coast Guard said in a statement. At least four people were taken to hospitals, authorities said. Mark Christopher Stegall, 45, has been charged with boating under the influence, Mark McKinnon of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources told WSAV-TV.

Agency: 1 dead, 7 injured in Oklahoma festival shooting

TAFT, Okla. (AP)—Authorities said a 26-year-old man was in custody after one person was killed and seven people were injured in a shooting early Sunday at an outdoor festival in eastern Oklahoma, where witnesses described frantic people running for cover amid gunfire. An arrest warrant was issued for Skyler Buckner and he turned himself in to the Muskogee County sheriff's office Sunday afternoon, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation said in a statement. OSBI said that those shot at the Memorial Day event in Taft, located about 45 miles (72 kilometers) southeast of Tulsa, ranged in age from 9 to 56. A 39-year-old woman was killed, OSBI said. The injuries of those wounded were considered non-life-threatening. OSBI had earlier said two juveniles were injured in the shooting but said Sunday afternoon that only one juvenile was injured. Witnesses said an argument preceded the gunfire just after midnight, the agency said.

Judge dismisses Trump's lawsuit, allowing NY probe to go on

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal judge on Friday dismissed Donald Trump's lawsuit against New York Attorney General Letitia James, rejecting the former president's claim that she targeted him out of political animus and allowing her civil investigation into his business practices to continue. In a 43-page ruling, U.S. District Judge Brenda Sannes wrote that case law bars federal judges from interfering in state-level investigations, with limited exceptions, and that there wasn't evidence to support the Republican's contention that James, a Democrat, was proceeding in bad faith because of their differing political views. Sannes, who was appointed in 2014 by former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, said James had a legitimate basis for investigating Trump and his company, the Trump Organization, and that Trump failed to show that recent court proceedings seeking to enforce subpoenas on him were "commenced for the purpose of retaliation."

Asia

Wreckage of plane with 22 on board is found in Nepal

A team of climbers prepare to leave for rescue operations from the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, Sunday, May 29, 2022. AP

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — The wreckage of a plane carrying 22 people that disappeared in Nepal's mountains was found Monday scattered on a mountainside, the army said. There was no word on survivors.

The Tara Air turboprop Twin Otter was on a 20-minute flight Sunday when it the lost contact with the airport tower while flying in an area of deep river gorges and mountaintops just before it was scheduled to land.

The army said the plane crashed in Sanosware in Mustang district close to the mountain town of Jomsom where it was heading after taking off from from the resort town of Pokhara, 200 kilometers (125 miles) west of Kathmandu.

An aerial photo the army posted on Twitter of the crash site showed parts of the aircraft scattered around the mountainside.

No other details were given.

The search for the plane had been suspended due to bad weather and darkness Sunday night but resumed Monday.

According to tracking data from flightradar24.com, the 43-year-old aircraft took off from Pokhara at 9:55 a.m. (04:10 GMT) and transmitted its last signal at 10:07 a.m. (04:22 GMT) at an altitude of 12,825 feet (3,900 meters).

Four Indians and two Germans were on the plane. The three crew members and other passengers were Nepali nationals.

The plane's destination is popular with foreign hikers who trek the mountain trails and also with Indian and Nepalese pilgrims who visit the revered Muktinath temple.

The Twin Otter, a rugged plane originally built by Canadian aircraft manufacturer De Havilland, has been in service in Nepal for about 50 years, during which it has been involved in about 21 accidents, according to aviationnepal.com.

The plane, with its top-mounted wing and fixed landing gear, is prized for its durability and its ability to take off and land on short runways.

1B meth pills: East, SE Asia illegal drug industry hits ominous marker

BANGKOK (AP)—The number of methamphetamine tablets seized in East and Southeast Asia exceeded a billion last year for the first time, highlighting the scale of illegal drug production and trafficking in the region and the challenges of fighting it, the U.N. said Monday.

The 1.008 billion tablets was part of a regionwide haul of almost 172 tons of methamphetamine in all forms and was seven times higher than the amount seized 10 years earlier, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime said in a report.

The drugs are largely consumed in Southeast Asia but also exported to New Zealand and Australia, Hong Kong, Korea and Japan in East Asia, and increasingly to South Asia.

"Production and trafficking of methamphetamine jumped yet again as supply became super concentrated in the Mekong (River region) and in particular Thailand, Laos and Myanmar," Jeremy Douglas, Southeast Asia regional representative for the U.N. agency, told The Associated Press in an email interview.

The increased production makes the drug cheaper and more accessible, creating greater risk to people and their communities, the report said.

Methamphetamine is easy to make and has supplanted opium and its derivative heroin to become the dominant illegal drug in Southeast Asia for both use and export.

The Golden Triangle area, where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet, was historically a major production area for opium and hosted many of the labs that converted it to heroin. Decades of political instability have made Myanmar's frontier regions largely lawless, to be exploited by drug producers and traffickers.

Given the problem of limited governance and low attention to the issue, the UN. agency said organized crime syndicates have the means to continue to produce more meth and to sell it to a growing, young population with increased spending power.

World

Ukraine, Russia battle in the east as Zelenskyy visits front

POKROVSK, Ukraine (AP)—Russian and Ukrainian troops traded blows in fierce close-quarter combat Sunday in an eastern Ukrainian city as Moscow's soldiers, supported by intense shelling, attempted to gain a strategic foothold to conquer the region. Ukraine's leader also made a rare frontline visit to Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, to assess the strength of the national defense.

In the east, Russian forces stormed Sievierodonetsk after trying unsuccessfully to encircle the strategic city, Ukrainian officials said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the situation there as "indescribably difficult," with a relentless Russian artillery barrage destroying critical infrastructure and damaging 90% of the buildings.

"Capturing Sievierodonetsk is a principal task for the occupation force," Zelensky said, adding that the Russians don't care about casualties.

The city's mayor said the fighting had knocked out power and cellphone service and forced a humanitarian relief center to shut down because of the dangers.

The deteriorating conditions raised fears that Sievierodonetsk could become the next Mariupol, a city on the Sea of Azov that spent nearly three months under Russian siege before the last Ukrainian fighters surrendered.

Sievierodonetsk, located 143 kilometers (89 miles) south of the Russian border, has emerged in recent days as the epicenter of Moscow's quest to capture all of Ukraine's eastern industrial Donbas region. Russia also stepped up its efforts to capture the nearby city of Lysychansk, where civilians rushed to escape persistent shelling.

Iran building collapse death toll reaches 31

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iranian riot police clashed with angry protesters in the southwestern city of Abadan, according to online videos, and state-run media reported that the death toll from a building collapse there reached 31 on Monday.

The official IRNA news agency said two more bodies were pulled from the rubble of an under-construction tower that collapsed a week ago. Rescue workers were continuing to clear the debris Monday and search for more victims under the toppled part of the Metropol Building. Out of 37 injured people, two remain hospitalized.

The deadly collapse has raised questions about the safety of similar buildings in the country and underscored an ongoing crisis in Iranian construction projects. The collapse reminded many of the 2017 fire and collapse of the iconic Plasco building in Tehran that killed 26 people.

It also drew angry protesters to the streets of Abadan over the past week, leading to eruptions of unrest and clashes with riot police on several occasions.

The semiofficial Fars news agency said mourners gathered at the site of the collapse on Sunday night when a group of protesters attacked the state television's camera crew, forcing police to disperse people to restore order and security.

Tasnim, another semi-official news agency, reported that more bodies are believed to be under the 10-story building.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico finds 3 migrants drowned in Rio Grande

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican immigration authorities said Sunday they found the bodies of three apparent migrants who drowned trying to cross the Rio Grande, the border river with Texas also known as the Rio Bravo. The National Immigration Institute said no identification was found on two of the bodies, but a third bore documents indicating he was from Nicaragua. Officers from the institute's migrant protection team also found three migrants alive but unable to continue crossing the river due to cold water temperatures and strong currents.

The woman, a 2-year-old girl and an 8-year-old boy, all from Honduras, were rescued with an airboat and taken to a shelter in the border city of Piedras Negras. It was the latest in a series of migrant deaths in Mexico that some activists attribute to heightened security that has led some migrants to use riskier routes to reach and cross the U.S. border.

Sudan's top general lifts state of emergency from coup

CAIRO (AP)—Sudan's leading general lifted a state of emergency Sunday that was imposed in the country following the October coup he led. The decision by Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, head of Sudan's ruling sovereign council, came hours after the Security and Defense Council, Sudan's highest body that decides on security matters, recommended an end to the state of emergency and the release of all detainees. The recommendations are meant to facilitate dialogue between the military and the pro-democracy movement, the defense minister, Maj. Gen. Yassin Ibrahim Yassin, said in a video statement. They come as the country faces protests against military rule and an unknown number of activists and former officials remain in detention.

Egypt court sentences 2 aged Islamist leaders to 15 years

CAIRO (AP)—An Egyptian court on Sunday sentenced two aged Islamist leaders to 15 years in prison for disseminating false news and inciting against state institutions. Along with Abdel-Monaem Abul Fetouh, a former presidential candidate and head of the Islamist Strong Egypt party, and Mahmoud Ezzat, the acting leader of the Muslim Brotherhood group, the Supreme State Security Court gave seven other defendants 15-year sentences on the same charges. The court in Cairo also sentenced Mohamed el-Kassas, the deputy head of the Strong Egypt party, and another activist, Moaz el-Sharqawi, to 10 years in prison on similar charges includeing membership in an outlawed group, the Muslim Brotherhood, which Egypt designated as a terrorist organization in 2013. The court, which tackles terror-related cases, sentenced 14 others to life in prison.

Overdrive

A game changing electric vehicle: the 2022 Ford F-150 Lightning

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

With an optional Max Trailer Tow package, Ford says the F-150 Lightning Pro targets up to 7,700 pounds of towing. FORD/TNS

NUTS & BOLTS

- **Base price**: $52,974
- **Powertrain**: Dual electric fixed magnet AC motors
- **Horsepower/Torque**: 536/775 pound-feet
- **Range**: 300 miles
- **Recharge time (DC Fast charger, 15-80%)**: 41 minutes
- **Length/Width/Height**: 232.7/83.6/78.9 inches
- **Ground clearance**: 8.9 inches
- **Bed length**: 67.1 feet
- **Payload**: 2,000 pounds
- **Towing capacity**: 10,000 pounds
- **Front trunk capacity**: 14.1 cubic feet
- **Cub weight; 6,590 pounds**

Are Americans ready for electric vehicles? If the 2022 Ford F-150 Lightning is any indication, it's clear that they are.

When Ford revealed the Lightning last year, it planned to produce 25,000 units. But demand caught Ford by surprise, so management ramped up to produce 80,000 units in 2022. But it still wasn't enough, so they upped production to 150,000 units for 2023. It still isn't enough—they have 200,000 orders on hand.

Given that Ford sold 726,004 F-Series pickups in 2021, this means that going forward, slightly more than one in four Ford F-Series will be a full, battery electric pickup. And considering that the Ford F-Series is America's best-selling truck for 45 years, its bestselling vehicle for 40 years, and the world's best-selling vehicle for 35 years, its acceptance as battery electric vehicle, or BEV, is nothing short of game changing.

For those who plunked their money down but have yet to drive it, your faith is well placed. For those of you waiting patiently for your Rivian R1T electric pickup, well, sometimes you just bet on the wrong horse.

Offered in ascending Pro, XLT, Lariat and Platinum models, the Lightning is about the same size as Crew Cab 4x4 with a short 67.1-inch cargo box. It uses a motor on each axle to provide four-wheel drive and a standard battery that produces 426 horsepower and 230 miles of range while providing 2,235 pounds of payload and 7,700 pounds of towing capacity. An extended-range battery increases that to 563 horsepower, 320 miles of range, 1,800 pounds of payload and a 10,000-pound towing capacity. Torque for both batteries is rated at 775 pound-feet. A single-speed transmission standard.

But it's more than a power source for your truck. Its driveline acts as a generator, providing up to 9.6 kilowatts of energy for your worksite or to power your home for three days if the power goes out, and even more you're careful.

Another clever feature is the optional Onboard Scales feature, which uses the truck's sensors to estimate its payload and relay to the driver how much it's hauling. The payload is then factored into the Lightning's range estimate, so you never run out of juice before you reach a charger.

Its appeal becomes apparent from the minute you approach the truck. Its shape is similar to that of the gasoline-powered F-150, although the body panels are subtly different. Like the conventional model, they're made of aluminum. However, the front fascia lacks a conventional grille. That and other subtleties reveal this to be a different animal, especially once you lift the hood. There you'll find nothing. Since the F-150 Lightning's driveline is stashed between this truck's frame rails, the space is used for a 14 cubic foot, water-resistant "Mega Power Frunk." It holds up to 400 pounds of lifestyle debris, such as two carry-on bags and one checked bag, or two sets of golf clubs. It also comes equipped with four electrical outlets and two USB chargers with 2.4 kilowatts of power, so it can be used as a power mobile work site or for tailgating. (A thought: Since it's up front, can it still be called tailgating?) There's also a drainable floor, so your Mega Power Frunk can double as a food and beverage cooler. So, the party is on. Meet me up front.

But the real party comes once you climb behind the wheel. That's when this truck becomes a revelation. Grabbing a key fob for an F-150 Lighting XLT with an extended-range battery and tooling around San Antonio, the party came on fast and furious, delivering more power than the screaming hot, high-performance, Baja-tuned Ford F-150 Raptor. And driving a truck with a 1,500-pound, 131 kilowatt-hour battery pack between its rails means a lot of weight down low, making tackling the twisties of Texas Hill Country effortless. But the F-150 Lightning benefits from having a nearly 50/50 front-to-rear weight distribution, and a fully-independent suspension.

Yet the Lightning is also, well, lightning quick. It's seriously fast, and being a BEV, all of that power is available instantly, even when towing an electric 8,500-pound Arc boat. There's too much mass here to consider it sporting, but its effortless handling and acceleration make for a seriously fun truck. Like every BEV, what makes driving it unique, at least compared to a gasoline-powered vehicle, is one-pedal driving, which uses regenerative braking to recapture energy normally lost during braking and coasting. On the Lightning it's true to its name, as you rarely if ever have to use the brake.

If the performance you care about sends you off road, you'll appreciate that the underbody is sealed to protect it. On my test drive, it handled mud bogs and boulder bashing with aplomb.

And you'll do all this ensconced in a cabin that's much like any other new Ford F-150, with the same excellent comfort, tech features and space that makes living with an F-150 one of life's great automotive pleasures. Taking away the gasoline engine makes it even more so.

But that's not the best part. The best part is this vehicle's overall demeanor. That's what makes the F-150 Lightning the vehicle that will change most consumers' minds regarding battery electric vehicles. It takes the vehicle you know and love and makes it better. With no oddball styling, no freakish technology and nothing to prove other than its excellent capabilities, the Ford F-150 Lightning will make you want to ditch your internal combustion engine rig.

It's the most important vehicle introduced this year, and among the best EVs made.

And it starts at $39,974.

Is this the Ford Model T of a new generation?

Does turbocharger need extra care?

Q: My first turbocharged vehicle was a 2003 Volvo XC90 with a 5-cylinder engine. The owner's manual stated that the engine should be warmed up to allow the turbocharger to come to temperature before driving and let the turbo cool down for a couple minutes before shutting the engine off. I now have a 2015 Audi A5 with a turbocharged 4-cylinder engine. The "nanny" reminder system tells me to "Avoid warming up engine while stationary," basically suggesting that I drive away. I've been following the Volvo tactic when driving my Audi. So, the bottom line is that, depending on outside temperature, I'm only wasting a little over a minute of gas when starting a cold engine. What do you recommend? Does a car's turbocharger need to warm up/cool down or not?

A: "There goes another guy with a blown turbo." We used to hear that when turbochargers debuted as a quick answer for more power from dinky engines. Blue smoke enshrouded cars as they burned oil. To help the turbo survive, motorists were cautioned to start and idle for about 30 seconds and to also allow the engine to idle for a minute or so before shutdown. The cooling off period helped prevent oil from coking in the hot turbo. Turbos have come a long way. Drive gently for the first five minutes and kill the engine normally unless you just pulled off the Autobahn.

Q: I've got a 2011 Ford F150 that frequently sits in our driveway without running. It has a 12-volt power outlet on the dash (not the cigarette lighter). It appears from testing that it is power-on capable all the time. Do you think a solar charger plugged in here would provide a trickle charge to the battery? I am concerned about over charging the battery. My Ford service writer does not have the answer to my question. I'm hoping your vast experience and resources can help!

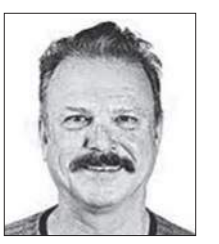
A: Solar chargers with overcharge protection (smart chargers) are the way to go. Check out your favorite auto parts store, big box store or shop online.

Q: The question from T.B. claiming better fuel efficiency the faster one goes reminded me of an incident I experienced. I was headed on a well-traveled interstate having a 70 mph limit to a holiday with family when I just happened to encounter my sister on the same highway, heading for the same place. I was tooling along at 55, but she was flying at 75. Just for kicks, I decided to follow her. Normally, I could make the round trip on a tank of gas with a couple days' worth for errands left over. Guess what? I was not able to make it back on that tank of gas! I realized about 30 miles from home that I had to stop to refuel to be sure of making it through a major bridge-tunnel. That needle was dropping fast!

A: With the price of gas nearly the highest since the recession of the 1980s, we may see the return of lower speed limits once again, but probably not anytime soon. Adjusted for inflation, we are paying about 20 cents less than at the peak in March 1981, according to AAA. That may not be bad enough to mandate a 55 mph speed limit, as was imposed during the Carter administration. You prove the point that 55 mph vs. 70 mph makes a big difference.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service



Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

‘Top Gun: Maverick’ wins Tom Cruise 1st $100 million opening

AP

Tom Cruise poses for the media during the “Top Gun Maverick” UK premiere at a central London cinema, on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Forget breaking the sound barrier: Tom Cruise just flew past a major career milestone.

The 59-year-old superstar just got his first $100 million opening weekend with “Top Gun: Maverick.” In its first three days in North American theaters, the long-in-the-works sequel earned an estimated $124 million in ticket sales, Paramount Pictures said Sunday. Including international showings, its worldwide total is $248 million.

It’s a supersonic start for a film that still has the wide-open skies of Memorial Day itself to rake in even more cash. According to projections and estimates, by Monday’s close, “Top Gun: Maverick” will likely have over $150 million.

“These results are ridiculously, over-the-top fantastic,” said Chris Aronson, Paramount’s president of domestic distribution. “I’m happy for everyone. I’m happy for the company, for Tom, for the filmmakers.”

Though undeniably one of the biggest stars in the world—perhaps even “the last movie star,” according to various headlines—Cruise is not known for massive blockbuster openings.

Before “Maverick,” his biggest domestic debut was in 2005, with Steven Spielberg’s “War of the Worlds,” which opened to $64 million. After that it was “Mission: Impossible—Fallout” with $61 million in 2018. It’s not that his films don’t make money in the long run: They just aren’t enormously frontloaded.

“Top Gun: Maverick” had an extremely long journey to get to the theaters. The sequel to the late Tony Scott’s “Top Gun,” which was released in 1986, was originally slated to open in the summer of 2020. Its marketing campaign technically started back in July 2019. The pandemic got in the way of those plans, however, and it was delayed several times. Directed by Joseph Kosinski, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and co-produced and co-financed by Skydance, the sequel reportedly cost $152 million to make.

Stars and royalty watch ABBA’s return in digital stage show

LONDON (AP)—”ABBA Voyage” is certainly a trip.

Four decades after the Swedish pop supergroup last performed live, audiences can once again see ABBA onstage in an innovative digital concert where past and future collide.

The show opens to the public in London on Friday, the day after a red-carpet premiere attended by superfans, celebrities and Sweden’s King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia. The guests of honor were pop royalty—the four members of ABBA, appearing in public together for the first time in years.

They were in the audience, though. Onstage at the specially built 3,000-seat ABBA Arena next to east London’s Olympic Park were a 10-piece live backing band and a digital ABBA, created using motion capture and other technology by Industrial Light and Magic, the special effects firm founded by “Star Wars” director George Lucas.

The voices and movements are the real Agnetha Faltskog, Björn Ulvaeus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad—choreographed by Britain’s Wayne McGregor—but the performers onstage are digital avatars, inevitably dubbed “ABBA-tars.” In unsettlingly realistic detail, they depict the band members as they looked in their 1970s heyday—beards on the men, flowing locks on the women, velour pantsuits all around.

The result is both high tech and high camp, a glittery supernova of stupefying technology, 1970s nostalgia and pop music genius.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Popular Punjabi rapper Sidhu Moose Wala shot dead at 28

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian police are investigating the murder of a popular Punjabi rapper, who blended hip-hop, rap and folk music, a day after he was fatally shot, officials said Monday. Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, also known around the world by his stage name Sidhu Moose Wala, was killed Sunday evening while driving his car in Mansa, a district in northern India’s Punjab state. Moose Wala, 28, was rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead. Punjab state’s top police official VK Bhawra said the initial investigation has revealed the killing to be an inter-gang rivalry. A day before the attack, the Punjab government had pulled security cover for over 400 individuals, including Moose Wala, in a bid to clamp down on VIP culture, local media reports said.

‘Real Housewives’ franchise takes its drama to flashy Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The camera pans across a vast expanse of desert before careening toward an artificial island lined with luxury homes in the Persian Gulf. Eerie chords ring out, as though warning viewers: This is not your “Real Housewives of Orange County.” For the first time in its 16-year history, the American franchise that has become an institution of reality television will take its glamor and soap opera abroad—specifically, to the skyscraper-studded sheikhdom of Dubai. While the franchise has sold countless global spinoffs from Lagos to Vancouver, none have been produced by the Bravo network before. “The Real Housewives of Dubai” debuts on Wednesday, inducting six new women into network’s crown jewel of catfights and marital meltdowns that is beloved, binged and hate-watched around the world.

UK to hold days-long bash to celebrate queen’s 70-year reign

LONDON (AP)—Britain is getting ready for a party featuring mounted troops, solemn prayers—and a pack of dancing mechanical corgis. The nation will celebrate Queen Elizabeth II’s 70 years on the throne this week with four days of pomp and pageantry in central London. But behind the brass bands, street parties and a planned appearance by the aging queen on the balcony of Buckingham Palac e lies a drive to show that the royal family still remains relevant after seven decades of change. “The monarchy is not elected, so the only way in which a monarch can demonstrate consent is not through the ballot box, but through people turning out on the streets,” said Robert Lacey, the historical adviser on “The Crown” series. “And if the monarch turns up on the balcony and waves and there’s no one there, that’s a pretty definitive judgment on the monarchy. “Well, when it comes to Elizabeth, the opposite has been the case. People can’t wait to mass and cheer together,” he added.

Teenager feels left out as mom travels with dad

DEAR ABBY: I’m a senior in high school, and I come from a family that is financially stable but unable to travel often due to time and money constraints. We usually travel only once a year in the summer, and for the most part, we’re not able to travel very far or stay for long.

For the past three years, our vacation plans have been on hold due to the pandemic and other concerns. My parents have been on two trips across the country in the past 12 months. I accept that they’re a married couple and occasionally want to travel without the rest of their family. However, recently it came to my attention that Mom bought two tickets to Europe for her and Dad as a birthday gift. She used the money she had been saving for a family vacation to pay for them.

I feel betrayed. I was under the impression that we couldn’t afford a vacation at this time, or that we were still waiting for the chaos of the pandemic to settle before traveling, but my mother was happy to spend the money on a vacation for her and Dad.

My dad is turning 50, and I understand it’s a very special occasion. However, I can’t help but wonder why I haven’t received so much as a dinner after being accepted into my top college and earning two scholarships. Am I overreacting? If not, how should I address this?

WANTING A GETAWAY IN NEW YORK

DEAR WANTING: I agree that having been accepted to your top college and having earned two scholarships, your achievement was something to be celebrated. (In reality, the achievement was a reward in itself.) That it was not recognized tells me there must be a lot going on for your folks right now.

While family vacations are wonderful and memorable, so are milestone birthdays such as the one that’s approaching for your dad. Your mother should be forgiven for ensuring it will be “extra special.” If you feel an itch to travel, if you don’t already have one, consider getting a part-time job so you can afford a getaway with friends or a student or church group. Because you are no longer a child, you should talk to your mother about how you feel.

■■■■

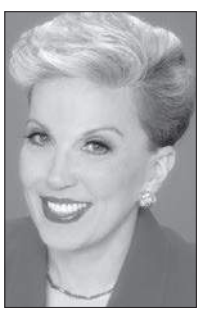
DEAR ABBY: My adult son got so furious with me that he called me, yelled vicious things and threatened to cut me out of his life. I’ve never been spoken to that way before. It was so traumatic that I was shaking after I hung up on him.

What made him so angry was that I didn’t thank his mother-in-law for an email she sent wishing me happy birthday. I had received 30 email birthday wishes that day and didn’t acknowledge any of them. I would have thanked someone who’d gone to the trouble of calling or sending an actual card. I don’t think I behaved improperly, but maybe there’s some rule that slipped by me. Your thoughts?

UNHAPPY BIRTHDAY IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR UNHAPPY: The polite way to deal with email special occasion wishes is to either acknowledge them individually or do an email “blast” thanking everyone for remembering you. To have remained stone silent was ungracious. HOWEVER, for your son to have gone off the deep end, yelled “vicious things” and threatened to cut you out of his life was uncalled for, and whether or not you receive one, you deserve an apology.

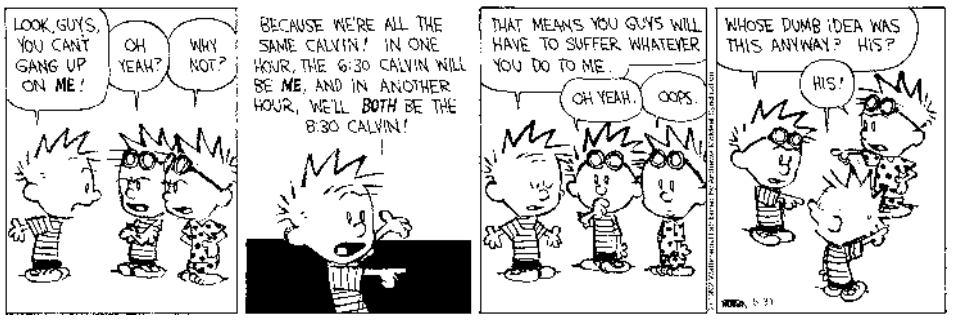
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

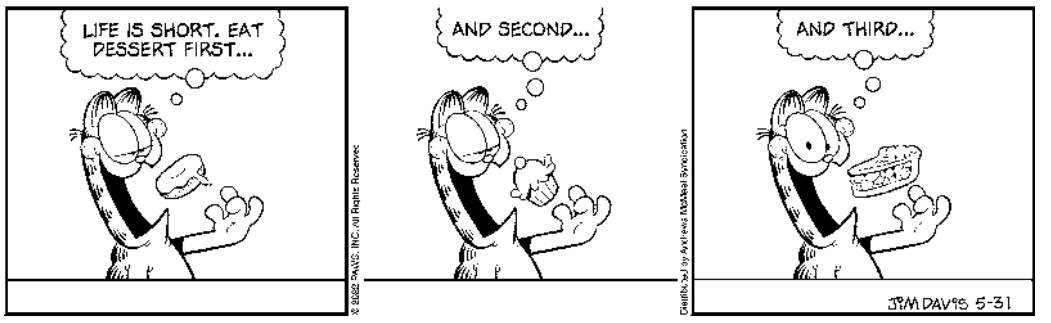
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, GUYS, YOU CAN'T GANG UP ON ME!
OH YEAH?
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE WE'RE ALL THE SAME CALVIN! IN ONE HOUR, THE 6:30 CALVIN WILL BE ME, AND IN ANOTHER HOUR, WE'LL BOTH BE THE 8:30 CALVIN!
THAT MEANS YOU GUYS WILL HAVE TO SUFFER WHATEVER YOU DO TO ME.
OH YEAH.
OOPS.
WHOSE DUMB IDEA WAS THIS ANYWAY? HIS?
HIS!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



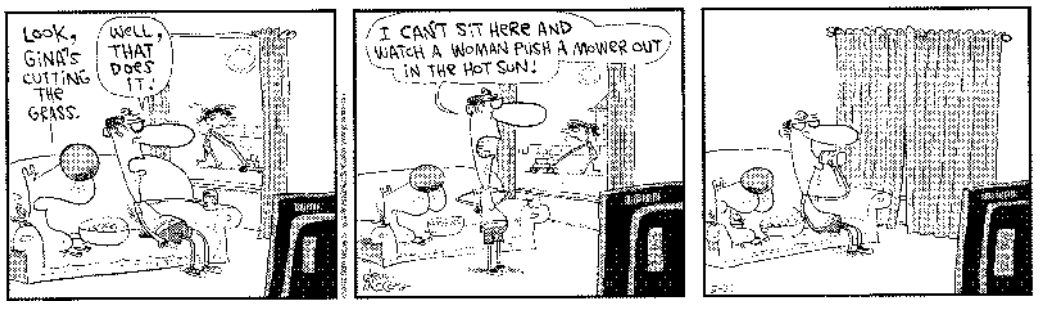
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

BEST JELLY BEANS EVER, YOU SAY?
YEP. IT'S A NEW BRAND.
CAN I TRY ONE?
NOPE.
I'LL TRADE YOU TWO OF MY COFFEE BEANS FOR TWO OF YOUR JELLY BEANS.
I'M NOT FOUR. I KNOW ABOUT "PULLING FAST ONES", OKAY?
5-31

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wrinkly fruit
5 Moment
8 Bright star
12 — of honor
13 Baton Rouge sch.
14 Pitcher Hershiser
15 Discovery at a dig
17 Sense
18 Scrap
19 Postage
21 — Davis Jr.
24 Bangkok language
25 Raw materials
26 Extend
30 Young fellow
31 County of Ireland
32 Eastern path
33 "No kidding!"
35 Low range
36 Indy winner A.J.
37 Loses color
38 Selfishness
41 Vacuum's lack
42 Jazz great Brubeck
43 Theoretical
48 Genesis shepherd
49 — chi
50 Gaelic
51 Repair
52 Greek vowel
53 Set down

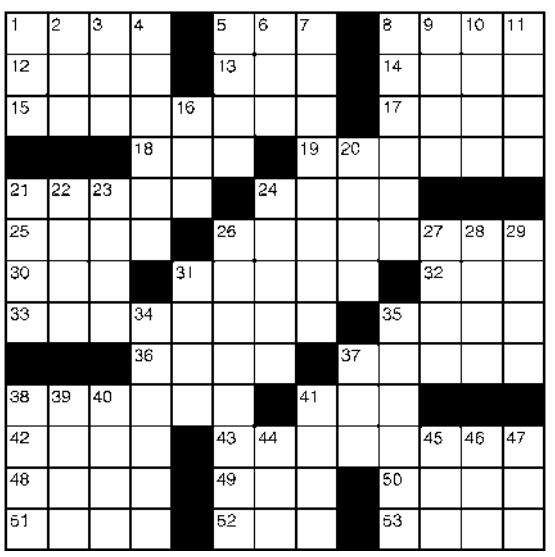
DOWN

1 Ms. Thurman
2 Needlefish
3 Illuminated
4 Figures of speech
5 Venetian blind part
6 PC key
7 Abbreviate
8 "That's cheating!"
9 Utah city
10 Second in command
11 Shakespeare title starter
16 Saute
20 London gallery
21 Pieces for one
22 "I smell —!"
23 Pills, in slang
24 Pamphlet
26 Sandbox sharer
27 Slightly
28 Job for a detective
29 Pitch
31 Fiscal execs
34 Off course
35 Container for pickles
37 In shape
38 Wax-coated cheese
39 Kaplan who played Kotter
40 Pizza cooker
41 China setting
44 Cave mammal
45 Altar constellation
46 Hit CBS series
47 Journalist Koppel

Solution time: 22 mins.

J	U	T		A	B	I	D	E		F	A	B
A	N	A		V	I	C	E	S		I	B	M
W	O	R	K	E	R	H	I	G		E	E	W
			I	N	C		G	R	I	L	L	S
P	O	P	D	U	O		N	O	R	D		
A	G	A		E	R	N		W	O	W	E	D
R	E	P	O		N	C	R		N	O	R	I
K	E	E	P	S		D	E	S		R	I	C
			R	E	E	D		T	A	N	K	E	R
N	E	W	C	A	R		A	C	E			
O	N	O		W	O	R	K	H	O	R	S	E
S	Y	R		A	N	N	F	F		O	U	R
Y	A	K		Y	F	A	S	T		O	F	R

Yesterday's answer 5-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Colin Farrell, 46; Brooke Shields, 57; Tom Berenger, 73; Clint Eastwood, 92.

Happy Birthday: Put a plan in place and set off on an adventure. Take the initiative, set high standards and keep the momentum going until you are happy with your progress. Don't let anything come between you and what you want. Take care of the paperwork, and get approval first to avoid setbacks. Expand your vision by participating in events that encourage you to be unique. Your numbers are 7, 18, 20, 29, 32, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Think big, but pay attention to detail, be precise and finish what you start. Don't let anyone stand in your way or disrupt your plans. Carry on alone, and don't think twice about what others pursue. Separate your emotions from your responsibilities. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep your plans to yourself until you are sure you will execute your intentions successfully. If you say you will do one thing and then do another, you will be harshly criticized. Don't jeopardize your position. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Get your facts straight before passing along information. Protect your possessions, reputation and position. It's OK to dream, but don't get carried away with something that isn't feasible. Take care of an emotional misunderstanding quickly and with diplomacy. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep your reactions minimal. Listen to reason, and be practical regarding money and the changes you want to make. Look for an original way to make your skills profitable. A discussion will offer insight into what's possible. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Concentrate on getting things done. Don't offer information that someone can use against you. Rely on your strength, courage and experience to outmaneuver anyone who tries to compete with you. Avoid health risks. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Walk away from anything or anyone causing stress. Consider putting together some changes that will make you happy. Take nothing for granted or leave anything to chance. Go after what you want without delay. Personal improvement is favored. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Learn from experience, and carry on with discipline and the intent to make things happen. Channel your energy into doing the best job possible by using the latest and greatest methods and technology. You will reap what you sow. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't let a change someone makes throw you off your game. Assess the situation and adapt your plans to reach your goal. A unique idea will separate you from the masses and give you the edge you need to excel. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Verify information received before passing it along or relying on it to help advance. A change at home will give you more space to get things done. Spread out and work diligently to conquer your dreams. Put your energy where it counts. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Gather information and downsize your plans. Be creative in the way you assess what's necessary. Come up with a reasonable goal, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Observation will be crucial when dealing with a friend, relative or peer. Don't feel you have to make a move if you aren't ready. Consider your options and prepare appropriately for your next adventure. Do what feels right and best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Put in the time and effort, and you will bring about positive change. Getting together with someone who makes you think and offers a unique perspective on life, love and happiness will lead to new beginnings. Love and self-improvement are encouraged. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative, helpful and sensitive. You are reticent and tactful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4		1			
	4			7			5	
8	6						2	7
5								4
	8		2	4	3		7	
6								3
3	9						6	1
	2			1			9	
			8		5			

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/31

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	9	1	6	7	4	2	5	8
7	2	4	9	8	5	6	1	3
6	8	5	2	1	3	4	9	7
4	6	8	7	3	9	5	2	1
1	3	9	5	2	6	8	7	4
5	7	2	8	4	1	9	3	6
2	1	7	4	9	8	3	6	5
9	4	6	3	5	7	1	8	2
8	5	3	1	6	2	7	4	9

Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

EGGS BENNY Solution: 7 letters

H	C	Y	T	S	A	T	T	E	C	N	A	P	P	C
O	A	H	D	R	A	T	S	U	C	R	U	N	C	H
L	Y	S	I	E	M	I	L	P	H	O	T	E	L	E
L	E	E	H	P	O	Y	A	A	T	H	A	L	F	E
A	N	W	N	B	O	P	E	A	E	M	O	H	R	S
N	N	E	O	O	R	T	M	L	R	B	I	T	E	E
D	E	I	W	I	H	O	L	A	S	Ⓗ	Ⓐ	Ⓜ	S	C
A	L	D	K	Y	T	P	W	E	C	R	A	B	H	H
I	R	A	E	S	O	V	I	N	E	G	A	R	T	E
S	E	B	E	T	N	R	U	R	S	C	E	P	O	F
E	D	P	A	O	S	R	K	R	E	T	S	B	O	L
C	R	T	M	C	B	A	H	C	T	C	H	E	M	A
U	O	L	K	O	O	C	O	U	I	L	I	C	S	V
A	A	L	E	M	O	N	B	T	D	T	A	P	I	O
S	H	R	I	M	P	P	A	S	T	R	Y	S	E	R

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Bacon, Bite, Boil, Brunch, Butter, Cayenne, Cheese, Chef, Chipotle, Cook, Crab, Crunch, Custard, Flavor, Fresh, Half, Ham, Hash Browns, Hollandaise, Home, Honey, Hotel, Lemon, Lime, Lobster, New York City, Order, Pancetta, Paprika, Parsley, Pastry, Pesto, Potato, Recipe, Rich, Salmon, Salt, Sauce, Shrimp, Smooth, Tasty, Toasted, Tomato, Vinegar, Warm, Wheat

Yesterday's Answer: Cushions

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 53 through 68,** order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Heat go cold in Game 7 against Boston, and pay the price

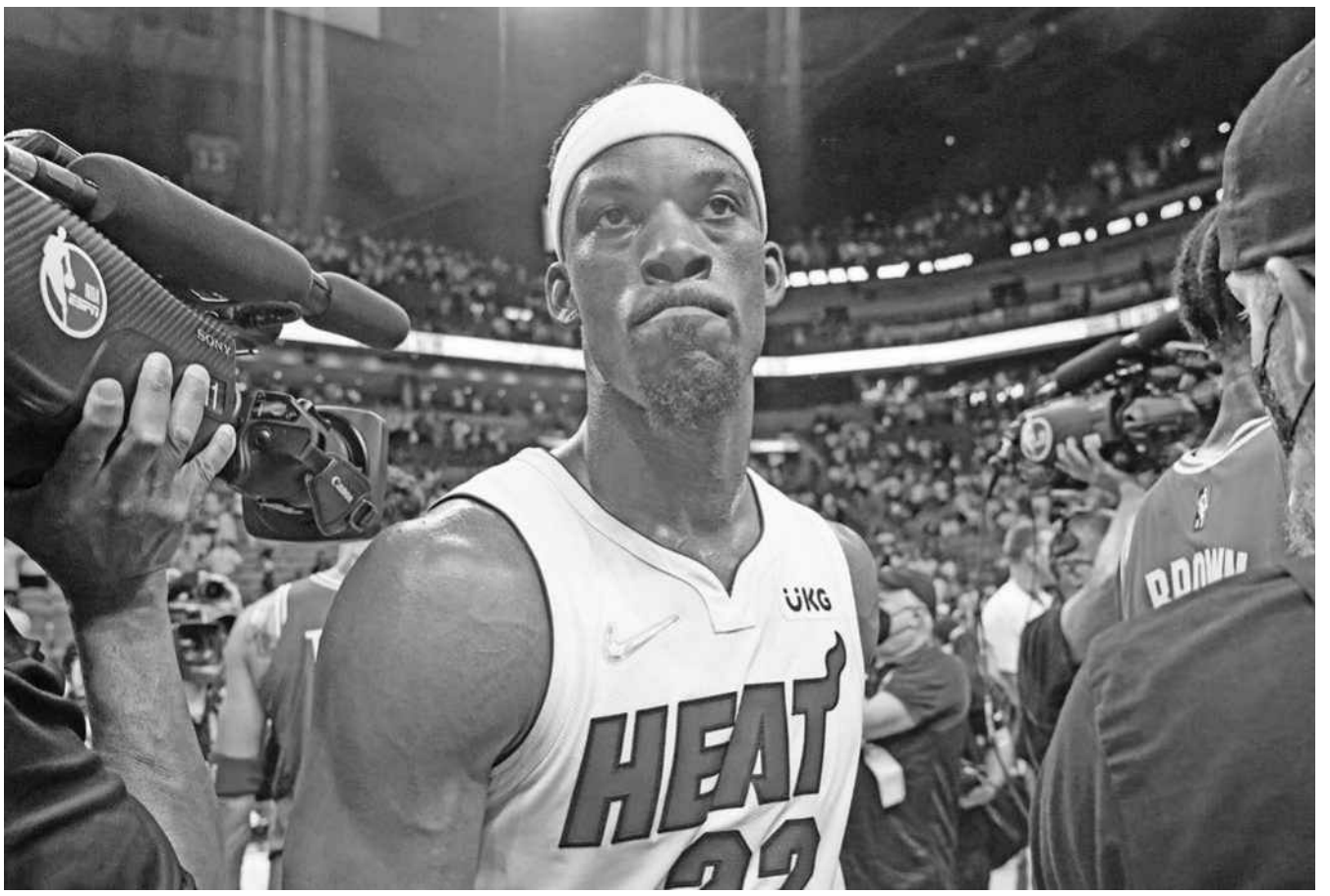
MIAMI (AP)—Jimmy Butler followed up one amazing performance with another.

It just wasn't enough for the Miami Heat.

The last shot of Butler's season was a 3-pointer that missed — and in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference finals, that's the way most of the shots from deep went for the Heat. Miami went 6 for 30 from long range on Sunday night, one of the big factors in their season-ending 100-96 loss to the Boston Celtics.

"When it ends, it ends in a thud," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I just have so much incredible respect and love for everybody in the locker room and what everybody gave to this team. It's such a memorable season and postseason."

Butler was brilliant — 47 points in Game 6 to extend the season, 35 points in Game 7 to give the Heat a chance at getting to an NBA Finals matchup with the Golden State Warriors. He played every second of the finale.



AP

Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) exits the court after loosing to the Boston Celtics in Game 7 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals playoff series, Sunday, May 29, 2022, in Miami.

"You can put him in that category of superstars," Heat center Bam Adebayo said. "To me, he's one of the best two-way guys in the league, hands down."

This is how good Butler was: On a rough shooting night for the Heat, they still had a chance.

When the Heat made 3s at home this season, it was game over: Miami was 25-1 when shooting at least 37% from deep. When the Heat didn't shoot that well, they went 11-14.

They were the epitome of how it's truly a make-or-miss league. And if Butler had gotten one more 3 to fall — for the record, the Heat had no problem with his shot selection when he tried what would have been a go-ahead 3 with about 17 seconds left — they might have been headed to the NBA Finals.

"I thought it'd have been an incredible storyline, Jimmy to pull up and hit that 3," Spoelstra said. "I love that about Jimmy. That was the right look. As it was leaving his hand, I thought for sure that was going down. Good, clean look. It was definitely better than anything we could have designed. It's just a shame that it didn't end that way."

Butler averaged 27.4 points and 7.4 rebounds in the playoffs. His assessment of those numbers: "Not good enough."

"I learned that I have to be better," Butler said. "And I will be better. Back to the lab."

It was the third time that a top-seeded Miami team was ousted at home in an ultimate game.

There was the Allan Houston shot with a second to go in 1999 that gave the eighth-seeded New York Knicks a 78-77 win in Game 5 of a best-of-five opening round series. In 2005, the Heat led Detroit in Game 7 of the East finals with 90 seconds remaining before getting outscored 10-3 the rest of the way and losing 88-82.

And now, add a loss to the Celtics to that list.

"This was all about competition," Spoelstra said. "We faced a team that kind of matches all the best qualities of what we do."

There was also an injury factor. The majority of the key pieces in the Heat rotation -- Butler, Kyle Lowry, P.J. Tucker, Max Strus, Tyler Herro primarily among them — were all dealing with various problems in the season's final weeks, some of those issues particularly pronounced during the East finals. Tucker didn't finish Game 7 because of injury.

"I will never make any excuse about injuries," Lowry said. "Ever."

The Heat even took great pains to point out that Boston was also dealing with ailments — which is absolutely correct. Regardless of which team lost Game 7, it was going to be reasonable for that side to wonder "what if?" on the health front and lament that injuries played a big role in their falling short of making the title round.

The Finals matchup: Celtics vs. Warriors for NBA title

MIAMI (AP)—Somewhere, Gregg Popovich must be pleased.

Ime Udoka and Steve Kerr both played for Popovich with of the San Antonio Spurs, both served as assistant coaches under him, and neither makes any effort to hide the affinity they have for the NBA's career victory leader.

And now, Udoka and Kerr are about to go head-to-head — in the NBA Finals.

The title matchup is set: It'll be Udoka and the Eastern Conference champion Boston Celtics facing Kerr and the Western Conference champion Golden State Warriors, a series that begins Thursday night in San Francisco. The teams split their two regular-season meetings, each winning on the other's home floor.

The Warriors have been waiting for an opponent since this past Thursday after needing only five games to beat Dallas for the West title. The Celtics got there the hard way, winning Game 7 in Miami on Sunday night to capture the East.

"We stayed with it. We believed in each other. We made a commitment on the defensive end," said Celtics forward Al Horford, who, after 141 playoff games, is headed to the NBA Finals for the first time. "That was the biggest thing, defending."

For the Celtics, it's a chance at an 18th NBA championship — which would break the tie with the Los Angeles Lakers for the most in league history. For the Warriors, it's a chance at a seventh crown — which would break a tie with the Chicago Bulls for third-most in league history.

It's also a rematch of the 1964 finals, when Bill Russell and the Celtics topped the Warriors in five games.

"I've said it many times: You go to the finals, it's almost a two-month journey filled with stress and fatigue and everything else," said Kerr, who gave his team Friday and Saturday off before bringing them back to work Sunday. "So, if you can get a little bit of a break, it's very meaningful. Hopefully, we can get healthy and have a few days of really good prep and be ready to go on Thursday."

Golden State won at Boston 111-107 on Dec. 17, behind 30 points from Stephen Curry. The Celtics rolled on Golden State's home floor in the rematch on March 16, winning 110-88 in the game where Curry injured his foot — and that's where his regular season ended.

Curry was ready to go for the playoffs. So were the rest of the Warriors. They're 12-4 in the playoffs, getting through Denver, Memphis and Dallas to get to the title round.

"It all starts with Steph," Kerr said.

Udoka has a chance to become the 10th coach to win a title in his first season. Eddie Gottlieb (1947 Philadelphia Warriors), Buddy Jeanette (1948 Baltimore Bullets), John Kundla (1949 Minneapolis Lakers), George Senesky (1956 Philadelphia Warriors), Paul Westhead (1980 Los Angeles Lakers), Pat Riley (1982 Los Angeles Lakers), Tyronn Lue (2016 Cleveland Cavaliers) and Nick Nurse (2019 Toronto Raptors) are eight of the coaches who have pulled off the feat.

The other name on that list is Kerr — who did it with Golden State in 2015, the start of this run of greatness from the Warriors. That was the beginning of six finals appearances in eight years, the two exceptions being when injuries and a roster reset kept them from the playoffs in 2020 and 2021.

"You can't take it for granted," Curry said after the West title series. "Nothing's ever guaranteed. We understand how hard it is to win. We've said that until we're blue in the face the last two years. This is definitely special. Proud of everybody that is in that locker room, that came with it all year. Now we have an opportunity to go finish a job."

Udoka played for Popovich and later was a San Antonio assistant. Kerr played for the Spurs, then assisted Popovich with USA Basketball through last summer's Tokyo Olympics — when the Americans won a fourth consecutive gold medal.

The Warriors' Draymond Green was on that Olympic team. So was Boston's Jayson Tatum. They celebrated winning gold together, and now they'll try to go through one another to get their fingerprints on the gold trophy that goes to the NBA champions — the Larry O'Brien.

"This is an opportunity that players dream of," Golden State's Andrew Wiggins said. "To be put in a position to win it all."

And if nothing else, a Warriors-Celtics matchup made Green seem prophetic.

After the Warriors won the West, Green visited the TNT broadcast set after the game and was prodded by Shaquille O'Neal to say which team from the then-undecided East title series that he would like to play.

Green began giving a diplomatic answer, saying that both the Heat and Celtics were tough. O'Neal pressed him to be honest, and Green — never shy with words — gave in.

"You're asking me who I want to play. I'm gonna tell who I think we're going to play: We're going to play Boston," Green said Thursday night. "That's who we're going to play."

Source: Lakers choose Darvin Ham as next head coach

LOS ANGELES (AP)— A person with knowledge of the decision says Darvin Ham has accepted an offer to be the next head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers.

The person spoke with The Associated Press on Friday on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been publicly announced.

The 48-year-old Ham is getting his first head coaching job as the 28th coach in Lakers history. He has been an assistant to Mike Budenholzer with the Milwaukee Bucks since 2018, and he played a significant role in their run to the 2021 NBA title.

Ham will be the successor to Frank Vogel, who was fired one day after the Lakers wrapped up one of the most disappointing seasons in NBA history by going 33-49 and missing the playoffs.

The Lakers flopped despite another impressive season from LeBron James, who welcomed his new head coach on social media even before the move was publicly announced.

"So damn EXCITED!!!!!!!!" James tweeted. "Congrats and welcome Coach DHam!!"

Ham will be the 15th Black coach currently in the NBA, the most ever at one time.

Ham was a player development assistant coach with Kobe Bryant's Lakers from 2011-13 on the staffs of head coaches Mike Brown and Mike D'Antoni. Ham then had a five-year stint on the Atlanta Hawks' staff under Budenholzer, developing a reputation as an effective communicator with versatile tactical knowledge.

Padres' Grisham walks it off vs Pirates, his 2nd of career

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Trent Grisham hit a two-run walkoff homer in the 10th inning and the San Diego Padres, who have struggled offensively, beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 4-2 on Sunday to take two of three.

Grisham drove a 2-0 pitch from Chris Stratton (2-2) off the right-field foul pole to bring in automatic runner Jorge Alfaro. It was the second career walkoff homer by Grisham.

Luis García (4-2) got the win for the Padres.

Alfaro, the catcher, made a huge play to end the top of the 10th. Pirates automatic runner Hoy Park, called up earlier in the day from Triple-A, broke for home on a wild pitch to the backstop, but Alfaro played the carom perfectly and dived to tag out Park.

Padres rookie lefty MacKenzie Gore pitched seven scoreless innings before the Pirates broke through against Nabil Crismatt to tie it at 2-2 in the eighth.

AP

From right to left, San Diego Padres' Trent Grisham celebrates with third base coach Mike Shildt after hitting a two-run walkoff home run against the Pittsburgh Pirates during the 10th inning of a baseball game Sunday, May 29, 2022, in San Diego.

Mets 5, Phillies 4, 10 innings

In New York, Nick Plummer launched a tying homer in the ninth inning for his first major league hit, Eduardo Escobar doubled home the winning run in the 10th and New York beat Philadelphia for a three-game sweep.

Nick Castellanos put Philadelphia ahead 4-3 with a three-run homer on an 0-2 pitch from reliever Adam Ottavino with two outs in the eighth.

Plummer, making his first major league start after getting recalled from the minors Saturday, drove the first pitch from Corey Knebel (1-4) — a 96 mph fastball — into the second deck in right field leading off the bottom of the ninth. It was Knebel's third blown save in 11 opportunities.

Blue Jays 11, Angels 10

In Los Angeles, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. doubled home the tie-breaking run in the eighth inning for his season-high fifth RBI, and Toronto overcame two homers by Shohei Ohtani to complete a four-game sweep of Los Angeles.

Raimel Tapia added three RBIs and Bo Bichette hit a tying homer in the eighth for Toronto, which capped its first four-game sweep of the Angels in 30 years with its highest-scoring performance of the season.

Toronto blew a four-run lead and Los Angeles squandered a three-run lead in a wild game featuring 25 combined hits and highlighted early on by Ohtani's latest power display. Ohtani hit a solo homer in the first inning and a two-run shot in the third for his ninth career multi-homer game. The AL MVP has seven homers in May and 11 this season.

Braves 6, Marlins 3

In Atlanta, Marcell Ozuna hit two home runs as part of Atlanta's barrage of extra-base hits in its win over Miami, giving the Braves their first winning homestand of the season.

Of the Braves' 11 hits, nine were for extra bases, including six doubles. Ozuna's second homer of the game, his 10th of the season, traveled 458 feet into the upper left-field seats in the third.

Austin Riley had two hits, including a homer, and drove in two runs for Atlanta. Ozuna and Riley hit back-to-back homers off Elieser Hernández in the first inning. Ozzie Albies and William Contreras hit back-to-back doubles to produce a run in the second.

White Sox 5, Cubs 4, 12 innings

In Chicago, Jake Burger atoned for a costly error with a game-ending RBI single in the 12th inning, and the banged-up Chicago White Sox topped the Cubs in a wild finale to the season series between the cross-town rivals.

Danny Mendick opened the White Sox's 12th as the automatic runner and advanced on Andrew Vaughn's grounder to second against Robert Gsellman (0-2). Burger then drove Gsellman's next pitch into left for the winning hit.

Matt Foster (1-0) worked a scoreless 12th, helping the White Sox to a sorely needed victory after they lost shortstop Tim Anderson to a right groin strain in the fifth.

The White Sox looked as if they had won the game in the 11th after pinch-hitter Leury García attempted a sacrifice, and Gsellman's throw got away from first baseman Alfonso Rivas. But García was called out for interference and Adam Engel was sent back to second.

The Cubs opened a 3-1 lead with two runs in the 10th, and the White Sox responded with two runs in the bottom half of the 10th. The Cubs scored again in the 11th, but the White Sox tied it back up.

Astros 2, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Ryan Pressly got Luis Torrens to ground into a game-ending double play with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, preserving Houston's win over Seattle.

Yordan Álvarez broke an eighth-inning tie with a two-out bases-loaded single off Paul Sewald, who had relieved Marco Gonzales (3-5).

Pressly walked J.P. Crawford leading off the ninth, threw a called third strike past Eugenio Suárez and walked Mike Ford, loading the bases. Torrens grounded Pressly's third straight slider to third baseman Alex Bregman, starting a 5-4-3 double play and giving Pressly his eighth save in 10 chances.

Athletics 6, Rangers 5

In Oakland, Calif., Jed Lowrie hit a two-out RBI single off Brett Martin in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting Oakland past mistake-prone Texas.

After closer Dany Jiménez blew a save opportunity in the top of the ninth, the A's came back and won in their final at-bat for the second time this season.

Cristian Pache hit a leadoff single off of Martin (0-4), then Tony Kemp popped out and Ramon Laureano grounded out to move Pache to second. Lowrie, who struck out in his first two at-bats and was 1 for 5, lined a 2-2 pitch into left-center and Charlie Culberson's throw home sailed over the head of catcher Jonah Heim.

Dodgers 3, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Tyler Anderson threw six effective innings, Will Smith added a solo homer and Los Angeles swept a four-game series from Arizona.

Anderson (6-0) continued his streak of great pitching, giving the Dodgers' rotation a much-needed lift after injuries to Clayton Kershaw and Andrew Heaney. The veteran left-hander scattered five hits and has given up just two earned runs over his last 21 innings, spanning three starts that all ended in wins.

Smith pushed the Dodgers ahead 1-0 in the second, driving the 12th pitch of the at-bat into the Chase Field swimming pool that sits just behind the right-center field wall.

Red Sox 12, Orioles 2

In Boston, Bobby Dalbec hit a two-run homer, one of Boston's season-high five long-balls, and the Red Sox coasted over Baltimore.

Rafael Devers, Kiké Hernández, Franchy Cordero and Christian Arroyo each hit a solo drive for the Red Sox, who posted their ninth win in 12 games.

All five Boston home runs came in four innings against Bruce Zimmermann (2-3), who was tagged for six runs and eight hits. He allowed a previous career-high four homers in his last start Tuesday at Yankee Stadium.

Twins 7, Royals 3

In Minneapolis, Sonny Gray cruised before leaving in the seventh inning because of right pectoral soreness, and Minnesota beat Kansas City behind Gio Urshela's three-run homer.

Gray (3-1) allowed two hits and retired 14 in a row before Andrew Benintendi's single leading off the seventh.

With a 3-1 count on Bobby Witt Jr. and Kansas City asking for a video review to try to get a hit batter call, Twins manager Rocco Baldelli and athletic trainer came to the mound as Gray appeared to be trying to stretch a muscle near his pitching shoulder. Gray was replaced by Griffin Jax, who struck out Witt and allowed MJ Melendez's RBI double.

Giants 6, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Evan Longoria hit his fourth home run in four games, a go-ahead, three-run drive in a six-run eighth inning, to lift San Francisco over Cincinnati and avoid a three-game sweep.

Tyler Mahle took a no-hit bid into the seventh and Cincinnati led 2-0 in the eighth when Tommy La Stella doubled off Jeff Hoffman with one out, Wilmer Flores walked with two outs and Joc Pederson slapped a run-scoring single to right.

Art Warren (2-2) relieved, and Longoria reached down for a a full-count fastball on the outside corner and drove it to the opposite field in right.

Nationals 6, Rockies 5

In Washington, Juan Soto snapped a 15-game home run drought with a two-run shot, Tanner Rainey got the final five outs and Washington held off Colorado.

Soto, who hadn't homered since May 12 against the Mets, added a double and a walk for the Nationals, who took three of four from the Rockies. Lane Thomas had a two-run homer.

Rockies starter Kyle Freeland (1-5) exited with an apparent left leg injury with two outs in the sixth inning. Freeland, who was helped off the field, was charged with five runs on seven hits. He walked four and struck out two.

Rays 4, Yankees 2

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Taylor Walls and Ji-man Choi homered for Tampa Bay's only hits, and the Rays scored two runs in the seventh inning on four walks and a hit batter in a 4-2 win over New York.

Walls, in a 1-for-34 slide, homered on a 3-1 fastball from Luis Severino (3-1) for a 2-1 lead in the fifth and then made an outstanding defensive play to end the eighth inning.

Gleyber Torres had three hits, including a second-inning home run against Shane McClanahan (5-2). It was Torres' ninth home run of the season.

Tigers 2, Guardians 1

In Detroit, Harold Castro homered for the third time in three games and Jeimer Candelario also connected in Detroit's win over Cleveland.

Detroit won despite getting just four hits. The Tigers beat Cleveland for just the seventh time in their last 28 games at Comerica Park.

Tigers starter Elvin Rodriguez pitched four scoreless innings, allowing two hits in his second major league start. He struck out four and walked none before exiting with lower-body cramping. Gregory Soto, the sixth Detroit pitcher, worked around a two-out single and closed for his eighth save.

Luke Maile drove in Cleveland's lone run in the seventh inning with a sacrifice fly that scored Andres Gimenez. Castro homered in the fourth off Triston McKenzie (3-4).

Brewers 8, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Corbin Burnes tossed seven shutout innings and Jace Peterson hit a three-run homer to lead Milwaukee over St. Louis.

Lorenzo Cain and Rowdy Tellez also homered for the Brewers, who have won four of six and stretched their road record to 13-10.

Burnes (3-2), the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner, passed the 10-strikeout mark for the fourth game in a row with 11 and allowed only two hits — the first being a double from Juan Yepez in the fourth.

Miles Mikolas (3-3) gave up six earned runs on nine hits over 5 2/3 innings.

St. Louis' Paul Goldschmidt extended his hitting streak to 20 games with a single in the ninth inning. He has reached base safely in a career-best 34 consecutive games.

McDaniels mum on Kaepernick workout for Raiders

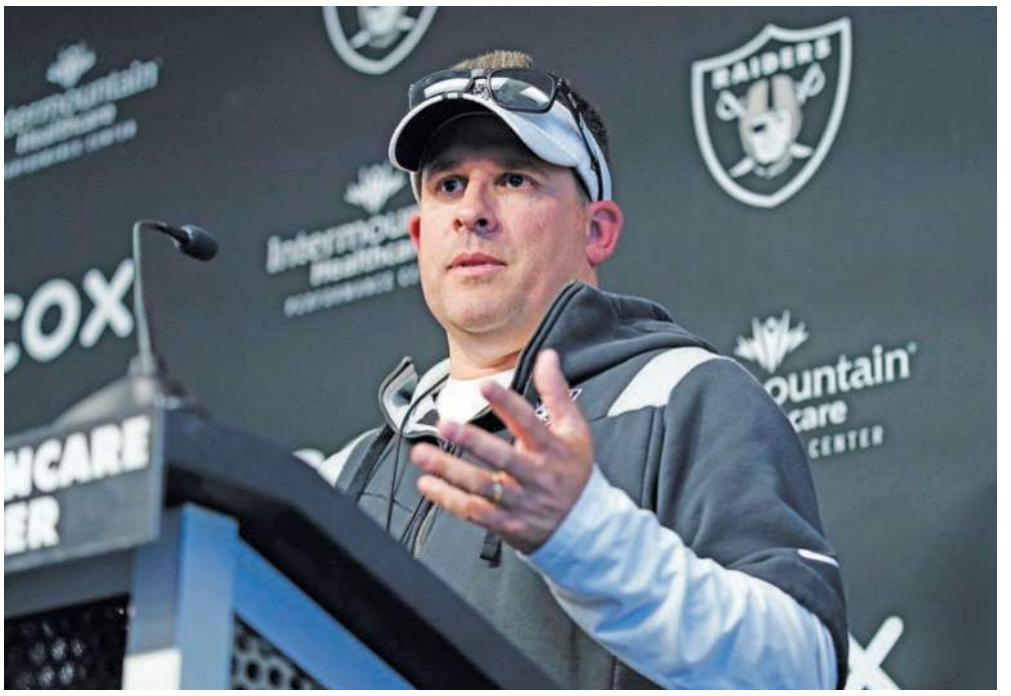
LAS VEGAS (AP)—The Las Vegas Raiders concluded organized team practices Thursday with all four quarterbacks on the roster participating but the buzz surrounding the franchise was about Colin Kaepernick, who has gotten a workout with the club.

First-year coach Josh McDaniels wasn't entertaining any conversation about Kaepernick's potential future with the team, however.

"Just by a standard procedure, we will only talk about the people on our team," McDaniels said. "Dave (Ziegler, general manager) and his staff have worked out tons of guys this spring, and we really don't make comments about the evaluations that we made or what they looked like, what they didn't look like, strengths and weaknesses, those kind of things.

"They're kind of private obviously for us as we look at things to try to make decisions to make the team better."

Kaepernick got his first chance to work out for an NFL team Wednesday since last playing in the league in 2016, when he started kneeling during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racial inequality.



AP

Las Vegas Raiders head coach Josh McDaniels speaks during a news conference at the NFL football team's practice facility Thursday, May 26, 2022, in Henderson, Nev.

McDaniels said there will be "a lot of people that are going to come in and out of" the facility with an opportunity to make an impression, and each evaluation will remain private.

Kaepernick hasn't played since the end of the 2016 season when he was cut by San Francisco when the new regime led by coach Kyle Shanahan wanted to go in a different direction at quarterback.

Until this week, he never got another opportunity to even to work out for NFL teams as he alleged he had been blackballed over his protests. He met with Seattle and had informal talks with Baltimore but never got a closer look.

Kaepernick filed a grievance with the NFL in 2017 over his lack of opportunity and settled it in 2019 — but still never got another look.

The Raiders don't have a glaring need at quarterback. They signed starter Derek Carr to an extension last month and added Nick Mullens as a backup this offseason. They also traded for Jarrett Stidham and signed Chase Garbers as an undrafted free agent.

"People say you've got an established (veteran quarterback). We certainly do," McDaniels said. "The next guy in line, you don't really talk about him until he's the most important guy in your organization when the starter gets hurt. It's one of the toughest positions, if not the toughest position, to play in all of sports. To try to constantly shuffle through and make sure that you're doing the best you can to provide competition in that room, and to have guys in there that can learn and play and produce in your system with the group that we have is really an important part of any football team."

Mullens, Stidham and Garbers will all compete for the No. 2 slot behind Carr, who ranked fifth in the league with 4,804 yards passing last season. All four rotated between stations, working out with specific offensive units during Thursday's two-hour session.

"Each day is an opportunity for them to grow," McDaniels said. "We're encouraging the competition right now."

The same can be said for an offensive line that was rated 28th in Pro Football Focus' final unit rankings.

"Young guys are trying to absorb as much as they can and our job as old guys, we're trying to show them the ropes," tackle Kolton Miller said "Everything's a lot different now so they're getting adjusted and they're doing great."

McDaniels said his staff couldn't ask for much more than it has gotten thus far.

"They're learning a new language, quite honestly, in each phase of the game," McDaniels said. "Whenever that's the case the first thing you have to do is really start to understand the verbiage. ... The attention, the effort, the attitude we have is tremendous. A long way to go before we can really say 'we got it, we understand everything' but after three days of this I'm pleased with kind of where we're headed."

COLDEEN

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for June 17 at the Oleai track and field inside the Oleai Sports Complex.

In all, 1,034 athletes from 20 countries will compete in the Mini Games. The CNMI and Fiji will have the most participants with 125 athletes apiece. The Solomon Islands has the second most athletes for the Mini Games with 117, followed by New Caledonia (109), Guam (101), Papua New Guinea (91), Tahiti (90), Palau (47), Wallis & Futuna (42), Nauru (38), Samoa (31), Vanuatu (28), Kiribati (23), Australia (19), Tuvalu (15), Tonga (12), Cook Islands (10), Federated States of Micronesia (7), American Samoa (3), and Norfolk Island (3).

The sport with the most athletes entered is athletics with 329, followed by outrigger canoe or *va'a* (182), weightlifting (131), tennis (98), baseball (96), badminton (64), golf (61), beach volleyball (38), and triathlon (35).

Athletics will have 18 countries participating, namely American Samoa with two athletes, Australia with 14, Cook Islands with one, FSM with four, Fiji with 61, Guam with 13, Kiribati with 13, Nauru with 12, New Caledonia with 44, Northern Marianas with 25, Palau with six, PNG with 47, Samoa with 10, Solomon Islands with 41, Tahiti with 20, Tonga with five, Tuvalu with three, and Vanuatu with eight.

For badminton, eight countries will see action—Guam with eight, New Caledonia with nine, Northern Marianas with 12, Solomon Islands with eight, Tahiti with 12, Tuvalu with three, and Vanuatu with 12.

Baseball has five countries throwing their hats in the ring and they are Fiji with 18, Guam with 20, Northern Marianas with 20, Palau with 20, and Solomon Islands with 18.

For beach volleyball, there are 11 countries with Guam, Kiribati, Northern Marianas, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Vanuatu, and Wallis & Futuna entering the full complement of two men's and two women's players, while New Caledonia, Samoa, and Tuvalu are only sending their two-man men's teams.

In golf, there are also 11 countries entered with Fiji, Guam, New Caledonia, Northern Marianas, and Solomon Islands having eight players each. PNG and Tahiti will be sending four apiece, while Cook Islands will have a three-person team. Both Samoa and Vanuatu will have two players each coming.

Northern Marianas, Fiji, Guam, Nauru, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, and Tahiti will have eight players each in tennis, while PNG, Samoa, and Vanuatu will have seven apiece. The rest of the countries taking part in tennis are Cook Islands (2), FSM (3), Kiribati (5), Tonga (6), Tuvalu (3), Vanuatu (3), and Wallis & Futuna (3).

In triathlon, Northern Marianas, Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, and Tahiti will have six athletes each, followed by Guam (4) and Palau (1).

Va'a will have the following entries per country: Cook Islands (2), Fiji (6), Guam (24), New Caledonia (28), Norfolk Island (3), Northern Marianas (28), Palau (1), PNG (28), Solomon Islands (4), Tahiti (8) and Wallis & Futuna (20).

For weightlifting, Solomon Islands will have the most entries with 20 followed by Nauru and Fiji with 18 apiece, Northern Marianas and Tahiti with 14 each, Guam with 12, Samoa with six, Australia and PNG with five each, New Caledonia and Tuvalu with four each, Cook Islands and Vanuatu with two each, and Kiribati with one.

FORMER

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ing team," said Perez's father, Jon, who is a former reporter of *Saipan Tribune.*

The elder Perez describes his son's activity in defense as that of a honeybee possessed. "He really goes after the ball and sticks to the one dribbling it."

He also said Nathan is never intimidated going up against players taller than him and never backs down from any defensive assignment.

"He is quick to react and he had a number of assists where his teammates scored goals. He's playing attitude is also good as he always looks for his teammates and where their positions are in the field before he passes the ball. He also lets his teammates score first especially if the opposing team's defense is keying on him."

Having played the other teams several times in the past, the elder Perez said that Nathan is always in their scouting report.

"Sometimes we can hear the coaches of the opposing teams giving instructions to their players telling them to guard No. 28, Nathan's number."

Aside from the 2022 Hollandia Cup, Nathan's Hollandia Collins team also won championships in the 2021 Hollandia Off-The-Wall Tournament, 2021 SYSI Fall-Winter Season League, 2019 Saskatoon United Soccer Club, and the 2019 Hollandia Cup.

"Of course, we are very thankful to TanHoldings FC for their coaches that were very patient in teaching young soccer players like Nathan the basic skills of the game and the support and leadership of the club's president, the late Glicerio 'Eli' Arago," said Jon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nathan Perez poses with the 2022 Hollandia Cup trophy.

RUN

From Page 20

to do group runs. These runs are non-competitive as we get a lot more people joining us per month it will start to be catered per runner. Our group runs are for runners for all levels as well as to have fun and socialize on weekends. Social runs are so much different from race settings."

For future group runs, Dela Cruz promised to have more members participate as he hopes to entice more members to take part in the group activity.

"There would've been definitely more but the timing was just too late in the morning for most. I had to schedule it close to our cleanup to kill two birds with one stone."

Simon Necessito said he enjoyed taking part in Run Saipan's first ever group run.

"I have to say, I'm really glad to be a part of this run. What's good about events like these is that it is non-competitive. These are the moments where we don't worry about time and we focus on building camaraderie through matching our fellow runner's pace. I do look forward to participating in more group runs in the near future!"

Evelyn Pangelinan echoed what Necessito said and added that she also enjoyed the cleanup they did immediately after the group run.

"It was a great opportunity for us to run as a group and do something for and as a community. After the run, we did the cleanup. Representatives from the Marianas Visitors Authority and Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance were present and we were given refreshments. Also present in the area was a Japanese association."

Pangelinan said she doesn't mind doing another group run and cleanup next time.

"So we were able to have fun with the run, get to know members of Run Saipan and other organizations at the same time, and help clean and manicure these sites that attract our tourists. We hope to have an even bigger turnout at the next group run and cleanup."

Heat go cold in Game 7 against Boston, and pay the price

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Coldeen: Team NMI is ready

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

As chef de mission of the CNMI delegation to the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, Bob Coldeen said Team CNMI is ready as it could be to make the home crowd proud in the 11th staging of the quadrennial event.

"Team NMI is ready. Athletes from all the nine sports we are competing in have been training hard and approaching peak performance now," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The former KSPN news and sports director said he doesn't have a prediction on how many medals Team CNMI will win in the Mini Games, but he's confident the islands' athletes will do the best of their abilities.

"Anything can happen. Hopefully tennis and baseball win medals. Maybe weightlifting can sneak in but since this will be the Oceania Championships and an Olympic qualifier, the field is stacked. Athletics is loaded. Who knows in other sports? Maybe wearing those slick NMI uniforms will turn them into magical performers. And one can win without winning a medal if it's a personal best," he said.

Coldeen also said currently they haven't selected the CNMI flag bearer for the Mini Games opening ceremony set

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MARK RABAGO
Bob Coldeen, CNMI daelegation chef de mission to the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, speaks during the NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held last April 19 at Kensington Hotel.

Run Saipan conducts first ever group run

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Run Saipan did its first ever group run last Saturday when 10 of its members took part in a 3-mile jaunt in Marpi.

"Today we took the next step as a run club. When Run Saipan first started we made it our mission to run monthly races for our runners in Saipan. After successfully hosting more than 21 races and collaboration with government and private entities since its inception we are moving on to our next phase which are social runs," said the non-profit group's president Edward Dela Cruz Jr.

He added that the group run was non-competitive and was just for fun.

"We will increase it to weekly group runs after the high-volume schedule of the Mini Games concludes this summer. As a running club we are moving on to our next phase which is do what actually running clubs do. Besides holding 5K races for Saipan we are starting

See RUN on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants of Run Saipan's first ever group run pose for a photo before their 3-mile jaunt in Marpi last Saturday.

Former TanHoldings FC player wins 5th championship

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Nathan Perez, kneeling right, poses with the rest of his Hollandia Collins teammates and their coaches after winning the 2022 Hollandia Cup in Saskatoon, Canada last weekend.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Former TanHoldings FC player Nathan Perez is a soccer champion for a fifth time since he and his family moved to Saskatoon, Canada in 2018.

The seventh grader at St. Edward Elementary School scored Hollandia Collins' first goal in the team's 4-1 victory over Regina's QC United in the finals of the 2022 Hollandia Cup last weekend.

Hollandia Collins finished pool play with a 2-0-1 win-loss-draw card. It then defeated Aurora Orion, 4-0, in the semifinals with Perez scoring the first goal five minutes into the game. Aurora Orion is the same team that forced Hollandia Collins to a 2-2 tie in the last game of pool play.

"We're proud of his achievements and his being an important part of the team's rotation. He is either a starter at midfield or comes off the bench. His coaches are proud of the way he chases every loose ball and how he pesters the oppos-

See FORMER on Page 19